



EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI

INDIA NEWSLETTER

(BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON INDIA AND
INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)

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India-EU Leaders' Meeting

At the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the India-EU Leaders' Meeting on 8 May. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with the participation of leaders of all the 27 EU Member States as well as the President of the European Council and the European Commission. This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format. During the meeting, the leaders expressed their desire to further strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership based on a shared commitment to democracy, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and multilateralism. India appreciated the prompt assistance provided by the EU and its member states to combat its second COVID wave.



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Prime Minister reviews availability & supply of oxygen and medicines



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to review the availability and supply of oxygen and medicines on 12 May. PM was briefed that the Government is actively monitoring the supply of drugs being used in the management of COVID as well as Mucormycosis. PM Modi was also informed about the current production and stock of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients for each such drug. Prime Minister was also apprised that the production of all drugs including Remdesivir have been ramped up significantly in the last few weeks. PM noted that India has a very vibrant Pharma sector and that the Government's continued coordination with them will ensure proper availability of all medicines.

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Government of India Undertakes Multiple Initiatives to Enhance Oxygen Availability, Distribution and Storage Infrastructure

In order to address the surge in demand for oxygen, the Central Government has undertaken key measures to increase the availability, streamline the distribution and strengthen the oxygen storage infrastructure in the country. The steps undertaken focused on the entire oxygen supply chain. These include efforts for improving oxygen production, enhancing tanker availability to optimize logistics, improving oxygen storage at the last mile, and easing norms of procurement.



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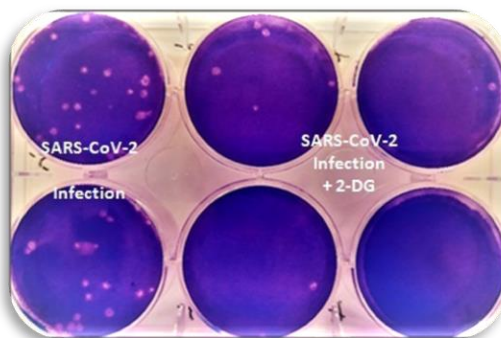
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India Develops New Anti-Covid Drug

2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), an anti-Covid-19 drug developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), has received Emergency Use Approval as "adjunct therapy in moderate to severe COVID-19 patients". Clinical trial results have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence. Higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion in COVID patients. The drug is expected to be a significant breakthrough in the management and treatment of COVID-19.



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150,000 Units of OxyCare Systems to Be Procured through PM CARES



PM-CARES Fund has accorded sanction for procurement of 150,000 units of OxyCare System at a cost of Rs. 3.2 billion (US\$ 43 million). It is a comprehensive system developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to regulate oxygen being administered to patients based on the sensed values of their SpO2 levels. The OxyCare system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO2 levels and prevents the person from sinking into a state of hypoxia which can be fatal. SpO2 Based Oxygen Control System optimises consumption of oxygen based on the SpO2 level of the patient and effectively increases the endurance of portable Oxygen cylinder.

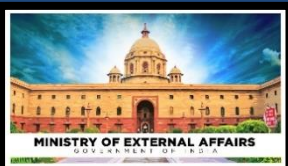
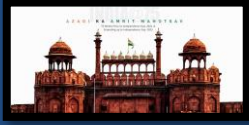
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Reformed UN-Centred Multilateral System Will Require Genuine Efforts of Member States: Foreign Secretary of India

Speaking on 8 May at the UNSC high-level meeting on "Maintenance of International peace and security: Upholding multilateralism and the United Nations-centered international system," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that pressing the need of hour is "comprehensive reform" of the multilateral system. Foreign Secretary said that as a founding member of the UN, India has consistently displayed its commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. He added that India has contributed immensely to maintaining international peace and security as a leading troop contributing country towards UN Peacekeeping Missions, having sacrificed the highest number of lives in this noble endeavour.



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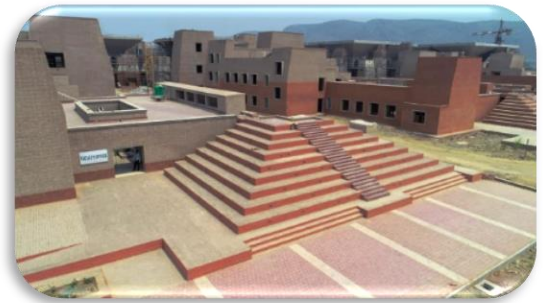
Revival of the Ancient Nalanda University



In ancient India, the highly formalized methods of Buddhist studies helped the establishment of large teaching institutions such as Taxila, Nalanda and Vikramashila, which were regarded as among the world's first universities. The status of ancient Nalanda as a prestigious seat of learning was a historical consequence of this context. Ancient Magadha was characterized by an intellectual ferment unlike any known to humanity. Historical sources indicate that the ancient Nalanda

University had a long and illustrious life which lasted almost continually for 800 years from the 5th to the 12th century CE before being destroyed by invading forces. The ability to hold multiple discourses and embrace knowledge in its entirety was what made Nalanda uniquely attractive for seekers of knowledge from around the world, including Southeast Asia. Echoing with the grandeur and glory of its ancient past, when it served as a prominent Buddhist centre, here one could also trace the footsteps of Lord Buddha.

As the ancient Nalanda was known for its diversity, a knowledge ecosystem thriving on shared creation of new knowledge and an international outlook, these remain the essence of the new Nalanda University as well. The journey towards the revival of the ancient glory of Nalanda University began as the leaders of sixteen member states of the East Asia Summit (EAS) including Vietnam, endorsed the proposal to reestablish Nalanda during their meeting in the Philippines in January 2007. The project took off when the Nalanda University Act 2010 was passed in both the Houses of the Indian Parliament. In September 2014, the University opened its doors for the first batch of students, a historic development after a gap nearly 800 years!



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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

Railways: Touching Bullet Speeds



India has the fourth-largest railway system in the world, behind only US, Russia and China. Indian Railways is the single largest employer in India and eighth largest in the world, employing close to 1.4 mn people. India has also the 4th largest rail freight carrier in the world. Indian Railways is the Engine of New India's Growth Journey. India's

railway network is recognised as one of the largest railway systems in the world under single management. The railway network is also ideal for long-distance travel and movement of bulk commodities, apart from being an energy efficient and economic mode of conveyance and transport. Indian Railways is the preferred carrier of automobiles in the country.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Rajgir: A Wonderful Locale for Serenity, Pilgrimage and Adventure

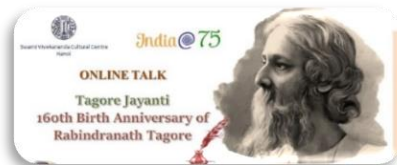
Nestled in a verdant valley guarded by five hills, and hot springs with medicinal properties, Rajgir is a scenic town located in the modern-day Nalanda district of Bihar. A complex of temples and monasteries, this hill town was once the capital of the Magadh Mahajanpad (state) when Patliputra was not formed. It was called Rajgrih then, meaning home of royalty. This naturally fortified destination is one of the most ancient sites of learning in India and finds a mention in Mahabharata too. Legends say that it was here Lord Buddha set in motion his second wheel of law and spent several seasons meditating and preaching. During the time of Lord Buddha, Rajgir was renowned as place for congregation of spiritual leaders and scholars. Rajgir was also the venue of the first Buddhist Council. It is a major hub for pilgrims of both the Jain and Buddhist faiths.



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BILATERAL CORNER

Tribute Paid to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on His 160th Birth Anniversary



The Embassy family paid tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on his 160th birth anniversary on 7 May. As India's poet laureate and author of India's National Anthem, Gurudev Tagore became the voice of India's national awakening and spiritual heritage as his poetry influenced generations. He was a polymath, poet, writer, composer, social reformer and India's first Nobel Laureate. Gurudev Tagore's visit to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) in June 1929 was an important landmark in India-Vietnam ties in the 20th century, demonstrating mutual solidarity during our freedom struggle. Many of Gurudev Tagore's poems have since been translated into Vietnamese. As part of celebrations to mark his 160th birth anniversary, the Embassy also organized an online talk by the Vietnamese academician Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thi Mai Lien, Head of Foreign Literature Studies Department, Hanoi National University of Education in which she recalled Gurudev Tagore's seminal role in the cultural renaissance that accompanied India's freedom struggle against the colonial power.

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Special Course Organized for Vietnamese Diplomats



The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) of India organised a two-day Special Course for Diplomats from Vietnam on 11-12 May 2021 using the virtual format. The programme, which was joined by 51 Vietnamese diplomats and experts, was organised in partnership with Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) under a bilateral cooperation MOU signed between SSIFS and DAV in August 2020. The programme was inaugurated by Dean of SSIFS, Amb. J.S. Mukul and Vice President of DAV, Amb. Hoang Anh Tuan. Ambassador Pranay Verma also participated in one of the sessions and spoke on India-Vietnam and India-ASEAN relations. The programme is part of on-going bilateral engagement between India and Vietnam using the virtual platform in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, both sides have held a series of online dialogues in different areas, including Maritime Security Dialogue, Consultations on UN Security Council, Workshop on Coastal Erosion and Protection etc.

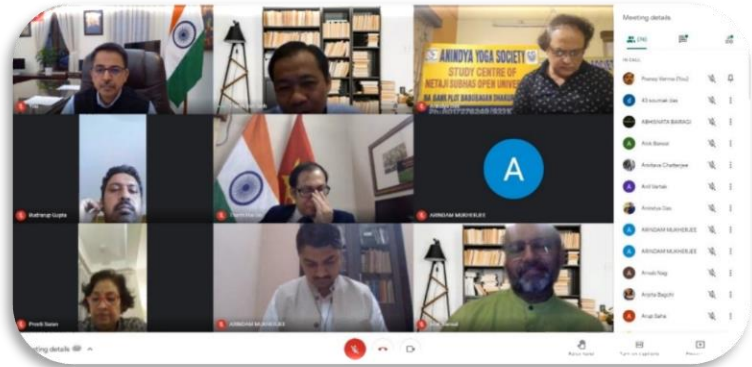
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BILATERAL CORNER

Ambassador Joins Webinar on India-Vietnam Relations

Ambassador Pranay Verma spoke at a webinar on "India-Vietnam Conjunctions: Connect to Reconnect" organised by the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Kolkata in partnership with the Economic Diplomacy and States Division of MEA and the MEA Branch Secretariat, Kolkata on 6 May 2021. Ambassador noted the significance of connectivity across its various manifestations as part of emerging and future ties between India and Vietnam and highlighted efforts on both sides to enhance physical, digital and societal connections.



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Assistance by Vietnam to India in the Fight against COVID-19

As an assistance to India in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA) and Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS) together gifted 200 ventilators and 50 oxygen generators at separate ceremonies. During a virtual ceremony held on 11 May, Vietnamese Minister of Information and Communications and Chairman of Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA) Mr. Nguyen Manh Hung expressed his sympathy over difficulties being faced by India. He also expressed his belief that under the leadership of the Government of India and with the solidarity of the people, the pandemic in India would be put under control soon. In a separate ceremony held on 12 May, Most Venerable Thich Thanh Nhie, Permanent Vice Chairman of the Executive Council of the VBS conveyed his sympathy and wished that India will soon overcome this challenge. Speaking at these ceremonies, Ambassador Pranay Verma expressed his gratitude for these assistance and described them as part of the long tradition shared by the people of India and Vietnam of showing support and solidarity to each other during difficult times.

