



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI**

INDIA NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2021

Volume 5, Issue 2

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Prime Minister Delivers Keynote Address at Virtual Vesak Day Celebrations

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address on the occasion of [Vesak Global Celebrations](#) on Buddha Purnima through video conference on 26 May. Members of Venerated Mahasangha, Prime Ministers of Nepal and Sri Lanka, Union Ministers Shri Prahlad Singh and Shri Kiren Rijiju, Secretary General of International Buddhist Confederation, Venerable Doctor Dhammapiya were also at the event. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister said that Vesak is a day to celebrate the life of Lord Buddha and to reflect on the noble ideals and sacrifices he made for the betterment of our planet. PM Modi remarked that the life of Gautama Buddha was about peace, harmony, and co-existence. PM said that Lord Buddha was the reservoir of brilliance for the entire universe and from him, we all could draw light from time to time and take the path of compassion, universal responsibility and welfare.



On this occasion, Most Venerable Prof. Dr. Thich Nhat Tu of Vietnam Buddhist University was conferred with the "[Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra](#)" for 2021 by the Government of India and the International Buddhist Confederation.

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Prime Minister Chairs a High-Level Meeting on COVID-19 Situation and Vaccination



On 15 May, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the Covid and vaccination related situation in the country. PM was briefed that testing has gone up rapidly in the country, from around 5 million tests per week in early March to around 13 million tests per week now. Officials also informed PM about the gradually decreasing test positivity rate and increasing recovery rate. Prime Minister instructed that testing needs to be scaled up further, with use of both RT PCR and Rapid Tests, especially in areas with high test positivity rates. PM said that India's fight against Covid has been guided throughout by scientists and subject experts and will continue being guided by them.

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DRDO Develops COVID-19 Antibody Detection Kit

Furthering India's fight against the ongoing pandemic, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India has developed an antibody detection-based kit 'DIPCOVAN'. The DIPCOVAN kit can detect both spike as well as nucleocapsid (S&N) proteins of SARS-CoV-2 virus with a high sensitivity of 97 per cent and specificity of 99 per cent. The kit is intended for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting SARS-CoV-2 related antigens. It offers a significantly faster turn-around-time as it requires just 75 minutes to conduct the test without any cross reactivity with other diseases. The kit will be useful for understanding COVID-19 epidemiology and assessing an individual's previous SARS-CoV-2 exposure.



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India's Entire Adult Population will be Vaccinated by End of This Year: Health Minister of India



Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has said that India's entire adult population will be vaccinated against coronavirus by the end of this year, stating that the government is in the active process of supporting the manufacturer of vaccines for ramping up vaccine availability in the country. During a COVID review meeting held on 21 May, Vardhan expressed hope that in the subsequent months, there will be an exponential rise in production of vaccines in the country. He added that "Between August to December 2021, India will have procured 2.16 billion vaccine doses, while by July this year, 510 million doses will be procured". He assured the states of all support from the Centre in augmenting their vaccine drive.

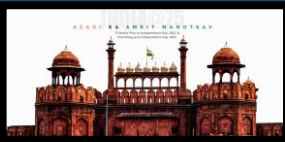
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COVID-19 Reshaping World by Changing Perceptions and Calculations: External Affairs Minister



Describing the Covid-19 pandemic as a "black swan event", while addressing the 26th 'Future of Asia' Conference organized by Nikkei on 20 May, External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India Dr. S Jaishankar said that even as some facets of the deadly virus have been addressed, "it continues its devastating course across geographies." EAM said that the Covid-19 has reshaped the world by changing the perceptions and calculations of nations by bringing out the value of trust and transparency and the importance of reliable supply chains. "Heightening risk aversion in a world now clearly more insecure and encouraging strategic autonomy to address over-dependence and focusing on the need to create greater global capacities so that pandemic-scale challenges are more effectively met, and by doing so promoting decentralized globalization and establishing resilient supply chains to de-risk the world economy," Dr. Jaishankar said.

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India Emerges as the Preferred Investment Destination



Measures taken by the government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business showed results. Even during a pandemic year, India attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of US\$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21 and it is 10% higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20 (US\$ 74.39 billion). The trends in India's Foreign Direct Investment are "an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors," Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India said. In terms of top investor countries, 'Singapore' is at the apex with 29%, followed by the U.S.A (23%) and Mauritius (9%). Saudi Arabia is the top investor in terms of percentage increase during FY 2020-21, investing US\$ 2816.08 million in comparison to US\$ 89.93 million during the previous financial year.

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India Becomes the Top Remittance Earner in 2020

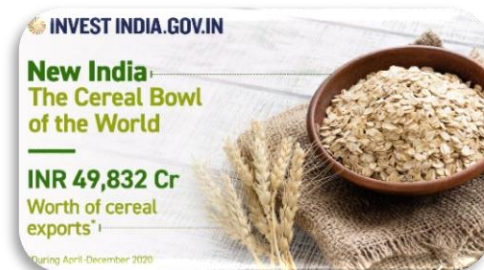
Despite the global economy being devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic, India remained the top remittance earner with a whopping US \$83 billion in 2020, a drop of just 0.2% from the previous year (\$83.3 billion in 2019). This drop occurred due to 17% decline in remittances from the UAE, the World Bank report said. China remained a distant second in terms of global remittances with it receiving US \$59.9 billion in remittances in 2020 against US \$68.3 billion in 2019. India and China are followed by Mexico (US\$ 42.8 billion), the Philippines (US\$ 34.4 billion) and Egypt (US\$ 29.6 billion). Globally, the remittance flow was US\$ 540 billion in 2020, which is 1.9% lower as compared to that of 2019, when it was US\$ 548 billion. India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.



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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

Food processing - A Sunrise Sector



India's food ecosystem offers huge opportunities for investments with stimulating growth in the food retail sector, favourable economic policies and attractive fiscal incentives. The Food & Grocery market in India is the sixth largest in the world. Food & Grocery retail market in India further constitutes almost 65% of the total retail market in India. India is the world's largest producer, consumer & exporter of spices; largest processor, producer and consumer of cashew nuts and second largest producer of food grains, fruits, and vegetables. The key sub-segments of the Food Processing industry in India are Dairy, Fruits & Vegetables, Poultry & Meat processing, Fisheries, Food retail, etc.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Ellora Caves: The Pinnacle of Rock-Cut Architecture



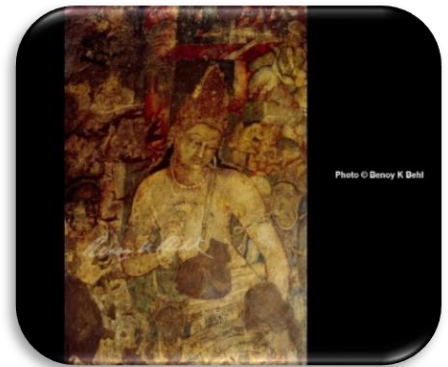
Ellora, considered the finest examples of rock-cut architecture, comprises Hindu, Buddhist and Jain caves that were chiselled between the 4th and the 9th century. One of the most fascinating archaeological sites in Maharashtra, Ellora dates back to the Rashtrakuta dynasty, about 1,500 years ago, and is the epitome of Indian rock-cut architecture. There are in all 34 caves, of which 12 are Buddhist, 17 Hindu and 5 Jain. A protected site under the aegis of the Archaeological Survey of India, Cave No. 16 popularly known as Kailash Temple is a World Heritage Site carved from a single monolithic structure. Among all the Ellora caves, the Jain caves have the largest number of wall paintings on extant ceilings.

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Online Lecture on Ajanta Paintings

As part of series of events to mark #IndiaAt75, the Embassy of India and the Swami Vivekananda Culture Centre in Hanoi hosted an online lecture on Ancient Buddhist Paintings of [Ajanta](#) by noted art historian, filmmaker and photographer Shri Benoy Behl on 17 May 2021. Ambassador Pranay Verma made the keynote remarks highlighting the strong historical Buddhist linkages between India and Vietnam that continue to nurture our modern-day partnership.



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Visit of INS Airavat to Ho Chi Minh City



The Indian Navy Ship INS AIRAVAT, which visited Ho Chi Minh City from 24 to 26 May 2021, transported medical supplies for COVID-19 from Vietnam. These included 1176 Oxygen cylinders, 75 Oxygen concentrators and 100 ventilators gifted by the Vietnam-India Friendship Association, the Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam, Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and Vietnam Buddha Bhumi Vihara. The medical supplies will be handed over to the Indian Red Cross Society.

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Handing Over of Medical Equipment by Vietnam to India



As an expression of solidarity with the people of India in the fight against COVID-19, the Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam invited Ambassador Pranay Verma to handover a token of medical supplies to be transferred to Indian Red Cross Society.

Separately, a delegation of [Vietnam Buddhist University](#), Ho Chi Minh City also visited Embassy to hand over some medical supplies and convey their sympathy and support for the people of India to meet the current challenges.



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