

EMBASSY OF INDIA HANOI

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

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India Surpasses 1 Billion doses of COVID-19 Vaccinations



On 21 October, India achieved the milestone of administering 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines under the Nationwide Vaccination Drive. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed gratitude to doctors, nurses and all those who worked on making this possible. In his tweet, the Prime Minister said: "We are witnessing the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 1.3 billion Indians. Congrats India on crossing 1 billion vaccinations. Gratitude to our doctors, nurses and all those who worked to achieve this feat". In celebration of this historic milestone, several monuments in India were illuminated in tricolour.

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Leaders Paid Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd Birth Anniversary



On the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (Gandhi Jayanti), the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and other political leaders of India paid floral tributes to Bapu at Raj Ghat. President Ram Nath Kovind also issued a message to the nation on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti. In his message the President noted that Gandhiji is especially

known around the world for his non-violent movement and his

birth anniversary is celebrated as the International Day of Non-violence. President Kovind mentioned that Gandhi Jayanti is a special day for all Indians, an occasion for the country to remember Gandhiji's struggles and sacrifice. He described this occasion as an inspiration for all to resolve to work for the prosperity and development of the fellow citizens and country.



PM Launches Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for **Infrastructure Development**



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 13 October launched the Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity. Gati Shakti is a digital platform that will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments for integrated planning coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. Economic Zones of various fields will be covered to improve connectivity and make Indian businesses more competitive. The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services, facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people. Gati Shakti is based on six pillars: Comprehensiveness, Prioritization, Optimization, Synchronization, Analytical and Dynamic.

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PM Launches Indian Space Association

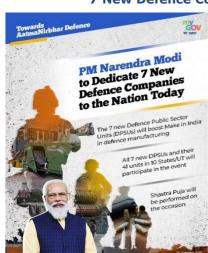


Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) on 11 October via video conferencing. ISpA is the Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies, represented by leading home grown and global corporations with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian space industry. It will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its agencies. Addressing the event, the Prime Minister remarked that the Government's approach to space reforms is based on 4 pillars: First, the freedom of innovation to the private sector. Second, the role of the government as an enabler. Third, preparing youth for the future. And

fourth, to see the space sector as a resource for the progress of the common man.

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7 New Defence Companies Dedicated to the Nation



Seven new defence companies, carved out of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), were dedicated to the Nation on 15 October. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a video address during the event. To enhance functional autonomy, efficiency and unleash new growth potential and innovation, the Government of India has decided to convert OFB from a Government Department into seven 100 per cent Government-owned corporate entities as a measure to improve self-reliance in the defence preparedness of the country.

In his video address, Prime Minister expressed confidence that these seven new companies would form a strong base for the military strength of the country in the times to come.

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PM dedicates to the nation PSA Oxygen Plants established under PM CARES





Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated 35 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plants established under PM CARES, across 35 States and Union Territories on 7 October. With this, all districts of India now have commissioned PSA Oxygen Plants.

Addressing the event, the Prime Minister said the facilities India prepared in such a short timespan to fight the Corona pandemic, shows the capability of the country. The Prime Minister said what India has done is a symbol of our determination, our service and our solidarity. The Prime Minister said in normal days, India used to produce 900 metric tons of liquid medical oxygen a day. As the demand increased, India increased the production of medical oxygen by more than 10 times.

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BILATERAL & EMBASSY CORNER

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- Embassy celebratesGandhi Jayanti2021
- 3rd edition of the International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links
- Ambassador's Meeting with Top Media Agencies of Vietnam
- India-Vietnam Buddhist Linkages Webinar





First 'Make in India' Drones Launched to Transport Covid-19 Vaccines



In a landmark event that epitomises the Government of India's commitment to making healthcare accessible to the last citizen of the country, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone). This is a delivery model to make sure that life-saving vaccines reach everyone. The Minister noted that this is the first time that a "Make in India' drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID vaccine over an aerial distance of 15 kms in 12-15 mins.







Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar 2021 - Phase II in Bay of Bengal

The Indian Navy participated in the Second Phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy. The exercise was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 12-15 October. First Phase of the exercise was conducted in the Phillipines Sea from 26-29 August.

The Second Phase of the exercise built upon the synergy, coordination and interoperability developed during the First Phase of the exercise and focused on advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings.

This 25th edition of Malabar reflected the commitment of the participating countries to support a free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific as well as a rules-based international order.

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Indo-ASEAN Business Summit and Expo



The India ASEAN Business Summit was organized on 7 October by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Ministry of External Affairs. In his <u>remarks</u> at the event, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar noted that India's ties with the ASEAN were rooted in history, geography and culture. ASEAN is no doubt one of the major hubs for India's global economic engagement. As cooperation grew in the last 25 years, new facets

and domains emerged for collaboration. Over the last two years, four areas have come into sharp focus for international business cooperation: resilient and reliable supply chains, health security, digital for development, and green and sustainable recovery

Ambassador Pranay Verma also <u>participated</u> in the event and spoke on the emerging opportunities for India-Vietnam collaboration in the sunrise sectors.

INDIA'S GROWTH STORY



Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme holds Potential to Boost India's Manufacturing and Exports



The central government of India introduced the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme in March 2020 to make India a competitive player in global markets and boost domestic manufacturing & exports. The PLI scheme invites foreign companies to set up units in India; however, it also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units, generate more employment and reduce the country's reliance on imports.

The scheme was originally designed for FY20 for a few select industries such as mobiles phones and allied equipment manufacturing, pharmaceutical ingredients and

medical devices. In FY2020, the scheme benefitted $\sim\!150$ manufacturing units, generating incremental sales of US\$ 6.1 billion and showcased significant potential for additional employment over the next eight years. As a result, the scheme has been expanded to accommodate an additional 10 'sunrise' sectors to boost the economy and India's self-reliance. This initiative was announced by the Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, during the Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 Stimulus Package for FY20–21, with an estimated allocation of US\$ 20.1 billion across five years.

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Government Announced Tata Group's Win of Bid for Air India

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the highest price bid of M/s Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd for sale of 100% equity shareholding of Government of India in Air India at the price of Rs. 180 billion (US\$2.4 billion), along with equity shareholding of Air India in Air India Express and Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited. The transaction is expected to the completed by December 2021. Civil Aviation Secretary Rajeev Bansal also reassured that Tata will retain all employees for a period of one year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20 October remarked that the step will help in running the country's aviation sector professionally and prioritizing convenience and safety. He added that the divestment of Air India would bring new energy to the aviation sector and a similar



decision has been taken to open domestic defence airspace for civil use, which has led to the curtailment of the distance and travel time on several air routes.







India's Economy Projected to Grow at 9.5% 2021 and 8.5% in 2022

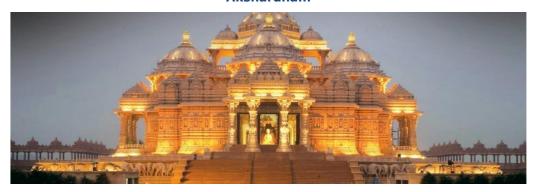
According to IMF's latest World Economic Outlook, India is expected to grow by 9.5% in 2021 and 8.5% in 2022, retaining its fastest growing economy tag.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Akshardham





Holding the Guinness World Records as the world's largest comprehensive Hindu temple, the Akshardham temple complex in New Delhi is a stunning piece of architecture. The temple stands at a height of 140 ft and has a width of about 300 ft. It hosts 234 beautifully carved pillars, along with nine elaborately inscribed domes. The temple premises hold around 20,000 idols of Hindu deities, and the main shrine is that of Lord Swaminarayan. An 11-foot-tall idol of the god stands below the central dome. Interestingly, each statue at Akshardham is built with five metals called *panch-dhaatu*. It also contains 148 statues of elephants that weigh over 3,000 tonnes.

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Resumption of Tourist Visas to India

The Government of India has announced resumption of tourist visas to India as per the following details:

- (i) Foreign nationals planning to visit India for tourism purposes will be allowed to enter India on e-Tourist Visa/Tourist Visa through chartered flights (for group tourism only) from 15 October 2021; and
- (ii) All individual foreign nationals planning to travel to India for tourism purposes would be permitted to enter India from 15 November 2021.

The first 500,000 Tourist visas would be issued on GRATIS basis and admissible only once per tourist.

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Official App for Indian Visa: Su-Swagatam

Su-Swagatam Mobile App
Facilitating Foreign Visitors
with Visa Related Services

Online Application: Regular Visa,
e-Visa & Visa on Arrival

Visa & FRRO Check Status of Visa
application & FRRO Services

Download ETA Electronic Travel
Authorization document

Chatbot Facility Addresses Visa
related queries
e-FRRO Services Extension of Visa,
Residential Parmit & Exit Permit

Useful Links: Medical Emergency,
Tourism & Business

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has launched an official app for Indian Visa called "Su-Swagatam" to provide a one-stop mobile app for the convenience of foreign nationals planning to visit India. The main objective of the app is to facilitate visitors seeking Indian Visa abroad and obtaining visa related services within India while their stay. The app will ease out the Indian Visa related information dissemination to target users. It has been designed with the holistic view of facilitating Visitors at each touch point, from getting

Indian Visa to exploring Indian Culture, Heritage, Business Prospects,

Medical treatment, Education, emergency services and Yoga/Spirituality in India.

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BILATERAL RELATIONS & EMBASSY'S CORNER



Ambassador visited Yen Bai 2nd October



As part of the commemorative events to mark the Gandhi Jayanti, the ongoing 75th anniversary of India's Independence and the upcoming 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Vietnam, Ambassador Pranay Verma visited Yen Bai province for a Tree Planting Ceremony on 2nd October 2021. A total of 125 Giang Huong trees (Pterocarpus Macrocarpus Kurs) were planted. Ambassador described the tree plantation as a symbol of India-Vietnam friendship

for generations to witness and a mark of collaboration between the two countries for protection of environment that will also contribute to Government of Vietnam's "Green Vietnam Initiative" of planting one billion trees by 2025.

During his visit to Yen Bai province, Ambassador Pranay Verma met the Party Secretary of the province, H.E. Mr. Do Duc Duy and held wide-ranging discussions on ongoing cooperation and future opportunities between India and Yen Bai in areas such as trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges.

During the visit, the Embassy also signed with the Provincial People's Committee an MoU for Indian grant assistance for construction of an irrigation canal in Van Chan district under Government of India's Quick Impact Project (QIP) programme. The infield canal will irrigate 20 hectares of farmland and directly benefit over 1500 families. Our grassroots QIPs support Vietnam's Sustainable Development Goals.



Embassy celebrates Gandhi Jayanti - 2021



To mark Mahatma Gandhi's 152nd Birth Anniversary, the Embassy of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre hosted a webinar on "Gandhian Philosophy and Resolve for Sustainable Future" on October 2nd 2021. Two eminent experts — the internationally acclaimed speaker on Gandhian philosophy from India, Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, and Dr. Phan Anh Tu from University of Social Sciences and Humanity, HCM City — were invited as Guest Speakers. Ambassador of South Africa to Vietnam, H.E. M.K. Lekgoro was the Special Guest, who in his remarks, gave a fascinating account of Mahatma Gandhi's deep

influence on South African society and the country's anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Pranay Verma spoke of the ever-growing relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy in addressing the myriad challenges the world is facing today and in securing its sustainable future. During the webinar, Ambassador Pranay Verma also released the Vietnamese translation of Mahatma Gandhi's book "Hind Swaraj" by Dr. Le Thi Hang Nga of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.









Celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 75 Years of India's Independence



3rd edition of the International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links



Minister of State for External Affairs of India, H.E. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh was joined by the Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam, H. E. Nguyen Quoc Dzung at the inaugural session of the third edition of the "ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links" conference held on 7 October 2021. The online conference, organized jointly by the ASEAN-India Centre at India's Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and the Institute for

Indian & Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), provided an excellent platform for eminent experts and scholars from India, Vietnam and other ASEAN countries to come together to explore India's age-old civilizational contacts with Southeast Asia and their profound relevance in India's contemporary engagement with ASEAN partner.

Ambassador's Meeting with Top Media Agencies of Vietnam



Ambassador Pranay Verma met the heads of the top three media organs of Vietnam – Editor-in-Chief of Nhan Dan Newspaper, H.E. Mr. Le Quoc Minh; President of Voice of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Do Tien Sy; and General Director of Vietnam News Agency, H.E. Ms. Vu Viet Trang.

During these interactions, Ambassador conveyed appreciation for the significant contributions being made by each of these premier news and media institutions of Vietnam in the development of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They agreed to step up cooperation and exchanges, including in the context of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations in 2022 and the on-going 75th anniversary year of India's Independence

India-Vietnam Buddhist Linkages Webinar



As part of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav celebrations and in the series of events on India-Vietnam Buddhist Linkages, the Embassy of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Hanoi organized a webinar on "India's Buddhist Influence on Vietnam" on 11 October 2021. Ambassador Pranay Verma, in his opening remarks, highlighted India's Buddhist connections with Vietnam dating back more than 2000 years ago and their continued relevance in strengthening

contemporary ties between the two countries. Most Venerable Thich Duc Thien, Vice President and General Secretary of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and Padma Shree Awardee, and Dr. Karam Tej Singh Sarao, an eminent scholar in Buddhist studies from Delhi University presented scholarly perspectives on the depth and characteristics of the ancient civilizational linkages between India and Vietnam centered on Buddhism and its preeminent role as a bridge between the Indian and Vietnamese cultures.