



EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI

INDIA NEWSLETTER



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

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Padma Awards 2021

The Padma Awards are among the highest civilian honours of India that are announced annually and given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service). Over the past years, the Padma Awards have truly become People's Awards, celebrating extraordinary feats of common people and recognizing their monumental contribution to their local community and for the betterment of India. This year the President of India has approved conferment of 119 Padma Awards including 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards, among which 29 are women, 1 is transgender, 10 are foreigners/Indian overseas, and 16 are posthumous. In 2018, Most Venerable Thich Duc Thien, Vice Chairman and General Secretary of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha became the first Padma Shri Awardee from Vietnam.

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A glimpse of our Awardees this year:



106-year old organic farming role model [Pappammal](#)



Fruit vendor [Harekala Hajabba](#) who has spent his earnings for education of his village



72-year-old 'Encyclopedia of Forest' [Tulasi Gowda](#)

India-Vietnam Political Consultations and Strategic Dialogue

The 11th round of Political Consultations and the 8th round of Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Ministries of India and Vietnam was held online between Smt. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and Vice Foreign Minister Nguyen Quoc Dzung of Vietnam on 12 November.



Both sides reviewed the recent developments in India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership guided by the "Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People" adopted by the Prime Ministers of India and Vietnam during their Virtual Summit in December 2020 and the Plan of Action for 2021-2023 signed by their Foreign Ministers. They expressed satisfaction over the sustained momentum in their multifaceted bilateral relations, despite the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, with frequent high-level engagements through virtual platform. They also discussed future cooperation agenda, including high-level exchanges and celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations in 2022.

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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

- **Monthly economic review of India**
- **Healthcare sector of India**
- **India records highest ever UPI transactions in October**
- **India retains position in top 10 of Climate Performers**

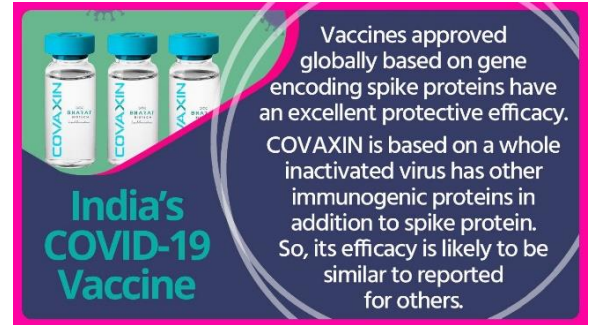
INCREDIBLE INDIA

- **Sravasti**

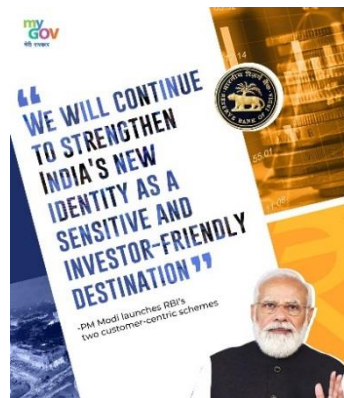


WHO and Vietnam Approve India's Indigenously Developed Vaccine COVAXIN

On 3 November, the WHO granted emergency use listing to COVAXIN developed by India's Bharat Biotech. COVAXIN is recommended for all age groups 18 and above and has been found to have 78% efficacy against COVID-19 of any severity. It is extremely suitable for low- and middle-income countries due to easy storage requirements. According to India's Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Covaxin has been recognized by around 100 countries so far. On 10 November, the Health Ministry of Vietnam also granted the emergency authorization of COVAXIN in Vietnam.



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PM Launches Two Innovative Customer Centric Initiatives of Reserve Bank of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 November launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) viz. Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme via video conference. Addressing the event, the Prime Minister said that these schemes will expand the scope of investment in India and make access to capital markets easier, more secure for investors. The Retail Direct Scheme has given small investors in the country a simple and safe medium of investment in government securities. Similarly, 'One Nation One Ombudsman' system has taken shape in the banking sector with the

Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. The PM stressed the needs to keep the citizens of the country at the center and keep on strengthening the trust of the investors. He believed that the RBI will continue to strengthen India's new identity as a sensitive and investor-friendly destination.

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The United States Becomes the 101st Member of the International Solar Alliance

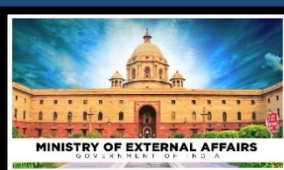
In a big boost to accelerate global adoption of solar energy, John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate announced at the COP26 on 10 November that the U.S. has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a member country. The U.S. became the 101st country to sign the framework agreement of the ISA to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach. Welcoming the United States of America as the 101st member of the ISA, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav said that this move will strengthen the ISA and propel future action on providing a clean source of energy to the world. The launch of ISA was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former President of France Francois Hollande in 2015 at the COP-21 in Paris. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the U.S. to ISA and said that this step will further strengthen the Alliance in the shared quest of harnessing solar energy for a sustainable planet.



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EMBASSY'S CORNER

- Ambassador meets Chairman of National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee
- Embassy launches Quiz Contest on Buddhism
- Ambassador visits Central Council for Theory and Criticism for Literature and Art of Vietnam
- Ambassador visits VIISAS
- Webinar on Buddhist Circuit Tourism in India
- Ambassador pays tribute to Gurudev Tagore's Bust at Vietnam Museum of Literature
- Embassy celebrates National Ayurveda Day 2021

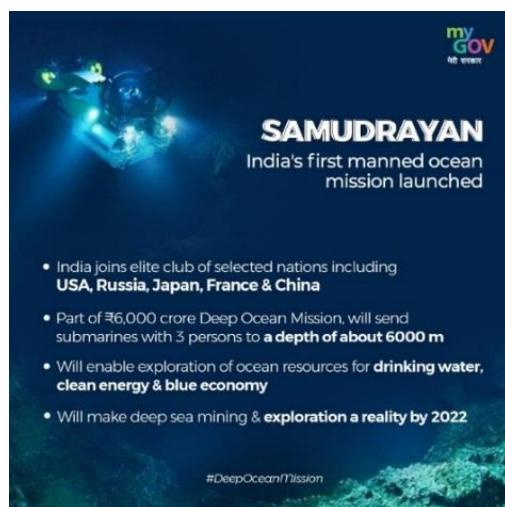


India Successfully Tests Indigenously-Developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon

Two flight tests of indigenously-developed smart anti-airfield weapon were carried out jointly by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF). The weapon was launched by an IAF aircraft from Chandan ranges at Rajasthan on 28 October and 3 November. Electro optical configuration of the system is equipped with Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) Seeker technology enhancing the precision strike capability of the weapon. In both the tests, the intended target was hit with high accuracy. The system is designed for a maximum range 100 kilometres. All the mission objectives were achieved.

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India's First and Unique Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan' Launched



Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh on 29 October launched India's first Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan' at Chennai. The Minister said that this niche technology shall facilitate Ministry of Earth Sciences in carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulphides and cobalt crusts, located at a depth between 1000 and 5500 meters. With the launch of this Unique Ocean Mission, India joins the elite club of developed nations such as the U.S., Russia, Japan, France and China to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.

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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

Healthcare Sector of India



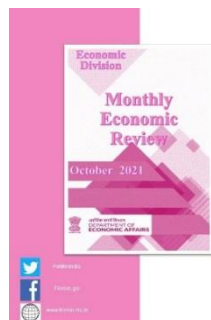
The Healthcare industry in India - comprising of hospitals, medical devices, clinical trials, outsourcing, telemedicine, medical tourism, health insurance, and medical equipment - has been growing at a tremendous pace owing to its strengthening coverage, services, and increasing expenditure by public as well private players. The Indian Healthcare market is expected to reach US\$372 billion by 2022 at a CAGR of 39%. The hospital industry in India, accounting for 80% of the total healthcare market, is witnessing a huge investor demand from both global as well as domestic investors. It is expected to reach US\$132 billion by 2023 from US\$61.8 billion in 2017; growing at a CAGR of 16-17%.

India also has the world's largest Health Insurance Scheme (Ayushman Bharat) supported by the government and is covering 500 million people. Over 70,000 Ayushman Bharat centers, which aim at providing primary health care services to communities closer to their homes, are operational in India.

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Monthly Economic Review of India



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Improving COVID-19 situation amid high business and consumer spirits in festive season.
- ✓ PMI Services at decadal high.
- ✓ Retail inflation eases further, 30-month low food inflation, 6-month low WPI inflation.
- ✓ Surplus liquidity aids monetary policy transmission with positive spill overs.
- ✓ High growth in personal loans signal uptick in consumer spending.
- ✓ Exports visibly emerging as an engine of growth.

The Finance Ministry's monthly economic review report for October 2021 noted that India is on its way to becoming the fastest growing economy in the world. The report said that India's COVID-19 vaccination campaign crossing new milestones in rapid succession and upcoming festive season have brought optimism to India's ongoing economic recovery. *Atmanirbhar Bharat* Mission encapsulating major structural reforms continues to play a critical role in

shaping India's economic recovery, both through the signaling of business opportunities and expansion of spending channels. Armed with necessary macro and micro growth drivers, the stage is set for India's investment cycle to kickstart and catalyze its recovery towards becoming the fastest growing economy in the world.

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India Records Highest Ever UPI Transactions in October

India recorded highest ever UPI transactions in Oct'21. Transaction value crossed \$100 billion for the first time.



India has recorded the highest ever Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions in October 2021 at US\$100 billion. The record growth in UPI transactions continues to push the boundaries of digital payment acceptance in India by empowering the last-mile villager with easy, secure instant fund transfers.

India Retains Position in Top 10 Best Climate Performers



India has retained its spot in the top 10 list of best-performing countries in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released by Germanwatch.

INCREDIBLE INDIA

Sravasti



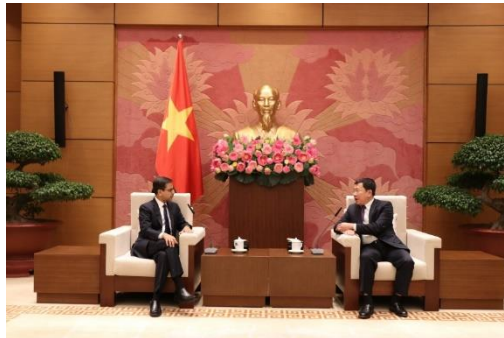
The ancient city of Sravasti is a major pilgrimage centre for Buddhism and draws a large number of devotees from India and abroad. Sprawled along the banks of River Rapti, the city once served as the capital of the Kosala kingdom, ruled by king Pasenadi, a disciple of Lord Buddha. The most popular tourist attraction in this ancient city is Miracle Stupa, where Lord Buddha is said to have spent his time after attaining enlightenment. His sermons and teachings made Sravasti an important centre for Buddhist learnings.

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Ambassador Meets Chairman of National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee



Ambassador Pranay Verma met the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Vu Hai Ha on 15 November and discussed ongoing and upcoming Parliamentary exchanges between India and Vietnam.

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Ambassador Visits Central Council for Theory and Criticism for Literature and Art of Vietnam



Ambassador Pranay Verma visited the Central Council for Theory and Criticism for Literature and Art of Vietnam on 12 November and held talks with the Council's Chairman H.E. Mr. Nguyen The Ky. They discussed several proposals to promote literary and art exchanges between India and Vietnam to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence and 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam diplomatic relations in 2022.

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Ambassador Addresses Vietnamese Scholars



Ambassador Pranay Verma was invited by the Vietnam Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) on 2 November to address its scholars on Five Years of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. VIISAS is one of the premier thinktanks of Vietnam focused on Indian studies and plays a key role in promotion of bilateral relations. In his presentation, Ambassador analyzed the key developments of

last five years in India-Vietnam relations and laid out the possibilities for the future, as the two countries prepared to mark the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, as also in the context of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

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Embassy Launches Quiz Contest on Buddhism

As part of celebrations for #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, a quiz contest on Buddhism was launched by the Embassy of India in partnership with the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS) to promote awareness and understanding among the people of Vietnam, particularly the younger generation, of the various Buddhist destinations in India and to encourage them to visit these historical locations. Ambassador Pranay Verma and Vice Chairman of VBS Standing Committee, Thich Thanh Nieu jointly chaired the launch ceremony at the VBS premises on 15 November in the presence of Vietnamese media persons. The quiz will be open to all Vietnamese citizens and will be conducted in three rounds. The three final winners will get to visit India on a five-day familiarization trip sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.



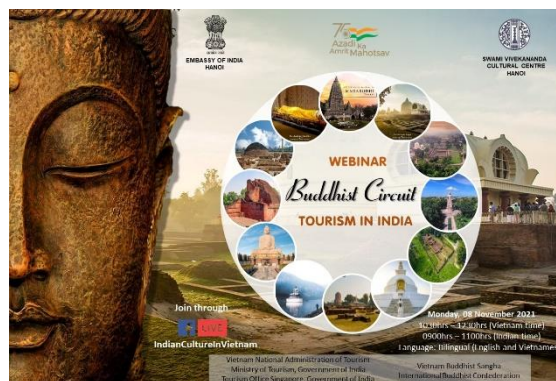
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Webinar on Buddhist Circuit Tourism in India

As part of events to promote tourism from Vietnam to India, the Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT), the Indian Ministry of Tourism and India Tourism Office in Singapore, hosted a webinar on "Buddhist Circuits in India" on 8 November. The event witnessed participation of a large number of tourism and travel companies, media outlets and tourism experts from India and Vietnam. In his keynote address, Ambassador Pranay Verma highlighted recent steps taken by India to welcome foreign tourists, including opening of all tourism to India from 15 November and the launch of "SU-SWAGATAM" Indian visa app as a single window facilitation for foreign tourists. He also underlined the new facilities to promote international travel to these destinations, notably the inauguration of the Kushinagar International Airport by Prime Minister of India in October 2021. The event was also addressed by the Vice Chairman of VNAT, Mr. Ha Van Sieu, who welcomed the Embassy's initiative and urged travel operators to disseminate more information on Buddhist circuit packages suitable for Vietnamese tourists.



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Ambassador Pays Tribute to Gurudev Tagore's Bust at Vietnam Museum of Literature



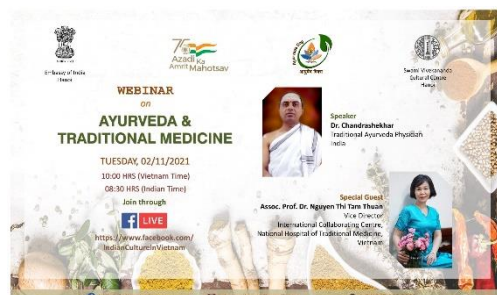
As part of celebrations to mark the #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, Ambassador Pranay Verma visited the Vietnam Museum of Literature on 1 November to pay floral tributes to the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the Museum. November marks the 10th anniversary of the installation of Gurudev's bust as well as the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnam Museum of Literature. The bust of Gurudev Tagore was the first statue of a foreign literary figure to be installed at the Vietnam

Museum of Literature, highlighting the special admiration and respect towards the poet laureate in Vietnam.

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Embassy Celebrates National Ayurveda Day 2021

As part of events commemorating the #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, the Embassy and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre organized a special webinar to mark the National Ayurveda Day on 2 November. From India, Ayurveda Physician Dr. Chandrashekhara introduced the basic concepts of Ayurveda as a holistic wellness system. From Vietnam, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thi Tam Thuan, Vice Director of International Collaboration Centre of the Vietnam National Hospital of Traditional Medicine gave a presentation, drawing similarities between the traditional medicine systems of India and Vietnam. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Pranay Verma highlighted the theme of this year's Ayurveda Day - "Ayurveda for nutrition" and noted the growing international collaboration in Ayurveda and Ayurveda's relevance in the emerging focus on holistic healthcare in the context of COVID-19. Ambassador also noted the emerging exchanges between India and Vietnam in the traditional medicine system.



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