



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI**

INDIA NEWSLETTER



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

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Padma Awards 2022



Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of India - have been announced for 2022 and conferred by the President of India in March. This year the President has approved the conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards. 34 of the awardees are women and the list also include 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees. Let's have a glimpse of some winners this year:



General Bipin Rawat

India's First Chief of Defence Staff (Posthumous)



Devendra Jhajharia

Paralympic Javelin athlete, achieved medals across 2 paralympic games



Abdul Khader Nadakattin

A grassroots agricultural innovator who is credited with over 40 innovations that assist small and marginal farmers across India



Prabhaben Shah

A social worker working for women empowerment and the environment for over 6 decades.



Swami Sivananda

Born in 1896, the 125-year-old man is an embodiment of Yoga, Dhyan and Sewa.



Dr. Cyrus Soli Poonawalla

Founder of the Serum Institute of India, world's largest vaccine manufacturer.

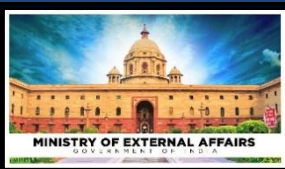
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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

- India Achieves \$400 billion Goods Export Target for the First Time
- GI-tagged Products from India are Becoming Popular Across the World

INCREDIBLE INDIA

- Sri Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple



PM Modi Attends 5th BIMSTEC Summit



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 30 March participated in the 5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit hosted by Sri Lanka, the current chair of BIMSTEC. The main outcome of the Summit was the adoption and signing of the BIMSTEC Charter, which formalizes the grouping into

an organization made up of member states that are littoral to, and dependent upon, the Bay of Bengal. Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of enhanced BIMSTEC regional connectivity, cooperation and security, and made several suggestions in this regard. The Prime Minister called upon fellow leaders to strive to transform the Bay of Bengal into a Bridge of Connectivity, Prosperity, and Security among the BIMSTEC-member countries.

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India becoming WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine

On 25 March, the Government of India and WHO signed the Host Country Agreement to establish the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM). The WHO GCTM will be established in Gujarat under the Ministry of AYUSH. This would be the first and only global outpost Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO, announced the establishment of WHO GCTM in India on the occasion of 5th Ayurveda Day on 13 November 2020 in the august presence of the Prime Minister of India. PM Modi praised this initiative of WHO and mentioned that WHO GCTM would emerge as a centre of global wellness, bolster evidence-based research, training and awareness for Traditional Medicine. On the occasion of the signing of the agreement, Prime Minister Modi expressed the hope that the center will contribute towards making a healthier planet and leveraging India's rich traditional practices for global good.

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Home Ministry Ends Covid-19 Containment Measures



Deputy Home Minister Ajay Bhalla in a communication to all states on 22 March informed that the Ministry had decided to end all COVID-19 containment measures from 31 March.

During the past 2 years, as significant capacities have been developed to contain the pandemic, the total caseload in India has declined with active cases accounting for 0.03% and around 184 million vaccine doses have been administered as of 1 April. After taking into consideration the overall improvement in the situation and preparedness of the government to contain the pandemic, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) decided to stop invoking provisions of the Disaster Management Act (DM Act, 2005) for Covid-19 containment measures. Accordingly, after the expiry of the existing order on 31 March, no further Order will be issued by the MHA. However, the health ministry advisories on Covid-19, including the use of face masks and hand hygiene, will continue. Deputy Minister Bhalla, therefore, advised all States/UTs to appropriately discontinue the issue of orders and guidelines under the DM Act, 2005 for Covid-19 containment measures.

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DRDO Successfully Flight Tests Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on 27 March. The flight tests were carried out as part of the live firing trials against high-speed aerial targets. The missiles intercepted the aerial targets and destroyed them completely, registering direct hits at both ranges. The first launch was to intercept a medium-altitude long-range target and the second launch was for proving the capability of a low altitude short-range target.

This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for use by the Indian Army.

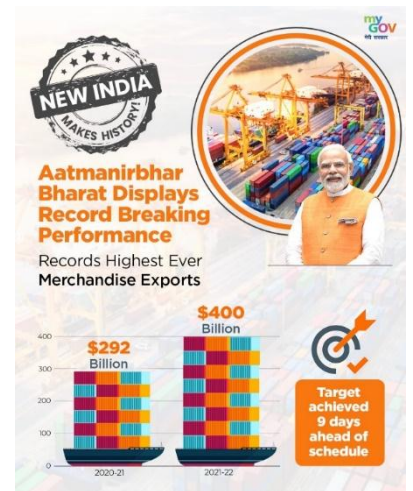
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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

India Achieves \$400 billion Goods Export Target for the First Time

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal on 23 March informed that Merchandise exports from India have crossed US\$400 billion in the current financial year, 9 days ahead of schedule, which is far higher than the previous record of US\$330 billion achieved in 2018-19. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi tweeted that this is a key milestone in India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat journey.

Despite the pandemic, India's merchandise trade performance has shown impressive growth and exports remained above US\$30 billion for 11 consecutive months during April to February wherein December 2021 in particular recorded the highest ever monthly merchandise exports recorded at US\$39.3 billion. Engineering goods exports have gone up by nearly 50% vis-à-vis last year. Higher engineering exports, apparel and garment export, etc. indicate that the misconception of India being a major exporter of primary commodities is gradually changing. India is exporting more and more value added and high-end exports and this effort by its technology driven industries should continue.



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GI-tagged Products from India are Becoming Popular Across the World



In line with Prime Minister's call for 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Centre, through Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been facilitating trial shipments into new markets world wide. Notable shipments of GI products in 2021 included export of Naga Mircha (King Chilli) from Nagaland to UK, Black Rice from Manipur and Assam to the UK, Assam Lemon to the United Kingdom and Italy, three GI varieties of Mango (Fazli, Khirsapati, and Laxmanbhog) from West Bengal and one GI variety of Mango (Zardalu) from Bihar to Bahrain and Qatar. As on date, there are 417 registered GI products and of them, around 150 GI tagged

products are agricultural and food products, out of which more than 100 registered GI products fall under the category of APEDA scheduled products (Cereals, Fresh Fruits and vegetables, processed products, etc).

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Sri Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple



One of the largest temple complexes in India, Sri Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple is the most famous spiritual site in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. An excellent example of Dravidian architecture, the temple is sprawled over a huge area, bordered by well-laid gardens and pristine fountains. Two shrines, more than 10 gateways or gopurams, several mandapas (halls) and a giant pool, make up the structure of the temple, which is adorned with beautiful carvings inside and outside. One of the halls of the temple is famous as the "Hall of a 1,000 pillars" though only 985 of them exist today. It is said that whichever direction you view these pillars from, they always seem to be in a straight line. The highlight of the temple is the outermost corridor that comprises musical pillars. These produce different musical notes when tapped.

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EMBASSY'S CORNER



India-Vietnam Business Forum

Ambassador Pranay Verma joined the Vice Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee H.E. Mr. Vo Van Hoan at the India-Vietnam Business Forum in HCM City on 17 March. The event was organized by the Consulate General of India in partnership with the Trade and Investment Promotion Centre of HCM City, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Invest India.

In his remarks, Ambassador Verma highlighted the recent growth in bilateral economic ties between India and Vietnam, as reflected in their bilateral trade exceeding US\$ 13 billion in 2021 despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He urged businesses of the two countries to explore new opportunities to further enhance economic ties at a time when both India and Vietnam were focused on pursuing rapid economic development. Ambassador also underlined the key reforms undertaken by the Government of India in recent years and the development blueprint announced in India's latest Budget 2022 focussing on investment, infrastructure and innovation, in pursuit of the vision of #AatmanirbharBharat and enhanced Ease of Doing Business. The event was also addressed by Vice Chairman Hoan, Additional Secretary of India's Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ms. Sumita Dawra and Ambassador of Vietnam to India, H.E. Mr. Phạm Sanh Chau.



The seminar focused on some key economic sectors such as engineering, ancillary industry, textile, e-commerce, digital economy and retail, and included an exclusive B2B session.

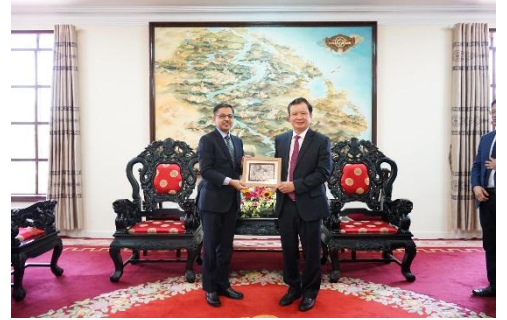
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Ambassador Visits Thua Thien-Hue Province

As part of Embassy’s outreach to provinces of Vietnam, Ambassador Pranay Verma visited Thua Thien Hue on 26 March and met the Party Secretary of the province H.E. Mr. Le Trung Luu. They discussed cooperation in areas ranging across trade and business, digital economy, healthcare and sustainable development. They agreed to mark the 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations by promoting closer people-to-people contacts through exchange of cultural troupes, celebration of the International Day of Yoga and facilitation of tourism.



During his visit, Ambassador also inaugurated a Quick Impact Project (QIP) undertaken with Government of India’s grant assistance for the construction of a classroom block for the Xuan Duong kindergarten of Quang An commune in Quang Dien district. The project will benefit nearly 250 children of the commune and will also serve as a shelter for the people of the commune during natural disasters.

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Vietnam – India Cultural Festival



To celebrate the 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations and the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence, the Embassy of India in partnership with the Provincial People’s Committee of Quang Nam organised an India-Vietnam Cultural Festival on 28 March at the World Heritage Site of My Son where Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken extensive conservation of three Cham temple complexes. Ambassador Pranay Verma, joined by the Vice Chairman of Quang Nam province Mr. Tran Van Tan, attended the event showcasing a variety of programmes, including cultural performances, a photo exhibition and a seminar with Indian and Vietnamese scholars on the theme of India-Vietnam cultural and civilizational exchanges.

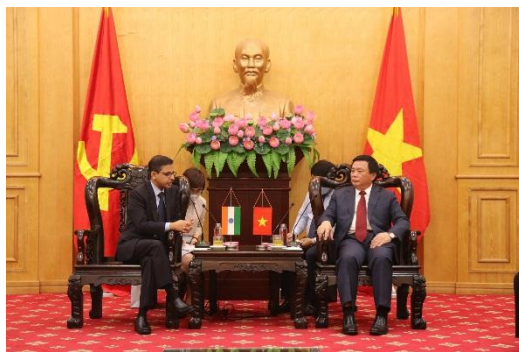
Before the event, Ambassador and Vice Chairman also visited the Temple Block ‘A’ restored by the Archaeological Survey of India, which includes the 9th century CE monolithic sandstone Shivalingam designated as the National Treasure of Vietnam.



During the visit, Ambassador also met the Party Secretary of the province H.E. Mr. Phan Viet Cuong and Chairman of the People’s Committee H.E. Mr. Le Tri Thanh. They discussed a wide range of on-going and potential cooperation between Indian states and Quang Nam in the areas of trade and tourism, healthcare, digital transformation, and sustainable development. In the context of the conservation work being undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India in Quang Nam, both sides agreed to promote closer cultural exchanges, including celebration of the International Day of Yoga in the province.

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Ambassador Meets President of HCM National Academy of Politics



Ambassador Pranay Verma met with the Politburo Member of the Communist Party of Vietnam and President of Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMNAP), His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Thang on 22 March 2022 and discussed collaboration programmes with the Academy to mark the 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations and the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. President Thang expressed interest in further reinforcing the Academy's exchanges with India in wide-ranging

areas of contemporary relevance.

HCMNAP is the premier training institute for the senior Party and State officials of Vietnam and together with its Centre for India Studies, plays a key role in developing scholarship on India in Vietnam and promotion of academic exchanges with Indian institutions.

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Webinar on Haryana-Nghe An Cooperation

The Embassy of India in Hanoi, in partnership with the State Government of Haryana and Nghe An Provincial People's Committee, hosted a webinar on 30 March to explore trade and investment opportunities between Haryana and Nghe An. Both sides discussed cooperation in several potential areas, including manufacturing sector, auto components, food processing, digital economy, urban and industrial zones development etc.



In his opening remarks, Ambassador Pranay Verma highlighted the importance of provincial-level cooperation as a driver of economic ties between India and Vietnam, and noted that both Haryana and Nghe An offered mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities with their progressive economic policies and advantageous geographic locations.

From Nghe An, Vice Chairman of Provincial People's Committee Mr. Le Ngoc Hoa and from Haryana, Principal Secretary Foreign Cooperation Department Mr. Yogendra Chaudhary participated along with stakeholders from business chambers on both sides. Consul General of India in HCM City Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi delivered the vote of thanks.

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Ambassador Visits Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture

The Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture is a treasure trove of archaeological marvels showcasing the profound civilizational and cultural communication between India and Vietnam over millennia. Ambassador Pranay Verma visited the museum on 27 March 2022 during his recent visit to Danang and thanked the museum for its careful preservation of these precious cultural icons, which include some of the National Treasures of Vietnam. The conservation work being done by the Archaeological Survey of India - ASI in the Cham temple complex at My Son are an important part of our collaboration for preservation of these historical treasures.



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