



**EMBASSY OF INDIA  
HANOI**

# INDIA NEWSLETTER

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INDIA AND INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)**



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### Prime Minister Holds Phone Talks with General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong

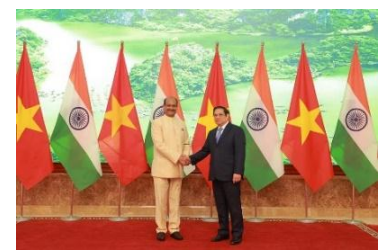


Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a phone call on 15 April with H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the rapid pace of wide-ranging cooperation under the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2016. The Prime Minister reiterated Vietnam's importance as an important pillar of India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision, and sought to enhance the scope of the bilateral relationship, besides working for expeditious progress on existing initiatives. He also requested for greater facilitation of market access for India's pharma and agri-products in Vietnam. PM highlighted the historical and civilization links between the two countries and expressed his happiness in India's involvement in the restoration of Cham monuments in Vietnam. The two leaders agreed to enhance defence partnership between the two countries. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared interest, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the situation in the South China Sea.

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### Speaker of India's Lok Sabha Visits Vietnam

At the invitation of the Chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly, H.E. Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha of India, Shri Om Birla paid an official visit to Vietnam from 19 to 21 April 2022. The visit held great significance as the two countries are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2022.



During the visit, Hon'ble Speaker held delegation level talks with the NA Chairman and met all the top leaders of Vietnam, including the General Secretary H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, President H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh. The discussions touched upon various aspects of bilateral relations, including management of COVID-19 pandemic, trade and investment cooperation, energy and defence partnership, tourism and cultural exchanges, and gave both sides an opportunity to reach important understandings. There was also exchange of views on important regional and international issues of common interest. Overall, the visit of the Speaker reaffirmed Vietnam's key position in India's Act East policy and the Indo-Pacific vision. Hon'ble Speaker also visited Quang Ninh Province and Ho Chi Minh City during his three-day visit.



## INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

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- India's Pharma Exports Grow by 103% since 2013-14

## INCREDIBLE INDIA

- The Golden Temple of Amritsar



### PM Modi Inaugurates Raisina Dialogue



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th edition of the Raisina Dialogue on 25 April in New Delhi, with President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, joining the Inaugural Session as Chief Guest. The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, held annually since 2016 by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

The theme for the 2022 Edition is "Terra Nova: Impassioned, Impatient, and Imperilled". Over the course of three days, the Dialogue held panel discussions and conversations across multiple formats on six thematic pillars - (i) Rethinking Democracy: Trade, Tech and Ideology; (ii) End of Multilateralism: A Networked Global Order?; (iii) Water Caucuses: Turbulent Tides in the Indo-Pacific; (iv) Communities Inc.: First Responders to Health, Development, and Planet; (v) Achieving Green Transitions: Common Imperative, Diverging Realities; and (vi) Samson vs Goliath: The Persistent and Relentless Tech Wars. The 2022 Edition had over 100 sessions with over 210 speakers from more than 90 countries and multilateral organisations.



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### Prime Minister Lays Foundation of WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine



On 19 April, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Gujarat. This is the world's first and only Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Prime Minister of Mauritius Shri Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO.

On this occasion the PM said, "The WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is recognition of India's contribution and potential in this field. India's traditional medicine system is not limited only to treatment. It is a holistic science of life. India takes this partnership as a huge responsibility for serving the entire humanity." The primary objective of WHO GCTM is to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology and improve the overall health of the world. The Centre will highlight the potential of traditional medicine and utilize technological advancements to promote its safe and effective use.

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### Indigenisation of Defence Production

In a [written reply](#) to the Rajya Sabha on 4 April, Minister of State of Defence Ministry Shri Ajay Bhatt stated that the Government has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years under the 'Make in India' program and brought in reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the country, thereby reducing import of defence equipment. Under these initiatives, the Value of Production of Defence and Aerospace Sector of India for the last two financial years has increased over 7%, from US\$10.4 billion to US\$11.1 billion. Further, 68% of the Capital acquisition budget has now been earmarked for domestic sources. To enhance functional autonomy, efficiency and unleash new growth potential and innovation in Ordnance Factories, the production units of Ordnance Factory Board have been converted into 7 Defence Public Sector Undertakings with 41 units, with effect from 1 October 2021. Moreover, 85 new defence industrial licenses to private Industries have also been issued during the last two years.



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## EMBASSY'S CORNER

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- **Ambassador visits the Mekong Delta Region of Vietnam**
- **India-Vietnam Tourism Promotion Event**



## Indigenous Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'Helina' successfully flight tested

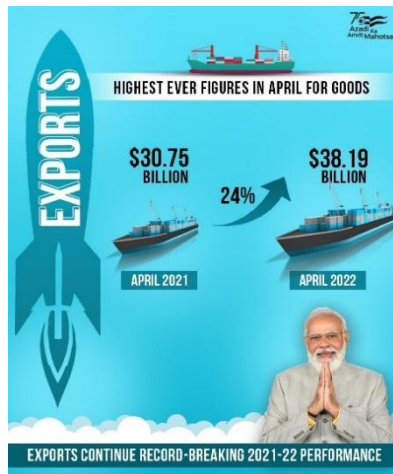
As part of the ongoing user validation trials, indigenously-developed Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' was again successfully flight-tested from Advanced Light Helicopter on 12 April. Teams of Indian Air Force and Indian Army, along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), conducted the trial at the high altitude range. This is the second successful flight-test in successive days. With the flight-test, consistent performance of the complete system, including Imaging Infra-Red Seeker, has been established, which will enable the induction of the 'Helina' into the Armed Forces. 'Helina' is the third generation, fire and forget Anti-Tank Guided Missile that can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode. The system has all-weather day and night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as with explosive reactive armour.



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## INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

### New Financial Year Begins with Record Exports in April



In the financial year 2021-22, for the first time, India achieved US\$400 billion in merchandise exports – the highest ever record for the country in external trade. The figure is far higher than the previous record of US\$330 billion in 2018-19 and was praised by Prime Minister Modi as a key milestone in India's *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* journey.

Following that momentum, the new financial year of India also begins with a record in merchandise exports in April at US\$38.19 billion, an increase of 24.22% over US\$30.75 billion in April 2021. Minister of Commerce Shri Piyush Goyal tweeted that India is building on the historic high of 2021-22 & confidently achieving new milestones on the back of trade deals inked recently. Petroleum products, Electronic goods and Chemicals led the way in high increase in exports during April 2022.

India's merchandise import in April 2022 was US\$58.26 billion, an increase of 26.55% over US\$46.04 billion in April 2021. The trade deficit in April 2022 was US\$20.07 billion.

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### India's Pharma Exports Grow by 103% since 2013-14

Indian pharma exports witnessed a growth of 103% since 2013-14, from US\$11.8 billion in 2013-14 to US\$24.1 billion in 2021-22. The exports achieved in 2021-22 is the Pharma Sector's best export performance ever. It is a remarkable growth with exports growing by over US\$10 billion in 8 years.

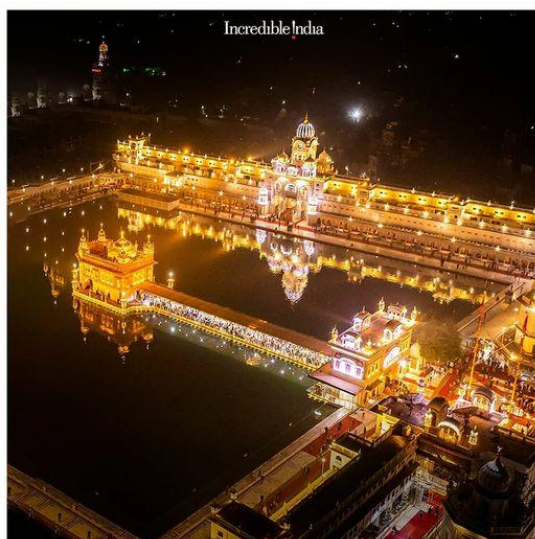
Highlighting the achievement in a tweet, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal said that under the active leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has been serving as the 'pharmacy of the world'. Indian pharma companies enabled by their price competitiveness and good quality, have made global mark, with 60% of the world's vaccines and 20% of generic medicines coming from India. India ranks 3rd worldwide for production by volume and 14th by value. The current market size of the Indian pharmaceutical industry is around US\$50 billion.



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## INCREDIBLE INDIA



### The Golden Temple of Amritsar

Amritsar is world-famous for the beautiful and highly revered Golden Temple or Sri Harmandir Sahib, which is one of the most prominent spiritual sites in the country. The temple is a two-storeyed structure with its top half covered in almost 400 kg of pure gold leaf. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the leader of the Sikh empire, is believed to have initiated the construction in the 19th century. The rest of the temple complex is built in white marble, inlaid with precious and semi-precious colourful stones.

The glistening temple is surrounded by *Amrit Sarovar* (pool of nectar), whose waters are said to have healing powers.

The temple has been designed keeping in mind the basic tenets of Sikhism that advocate universal brotherhood and all-inclusive ethos. Thus, it is accessible from all directions.

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## EMBASSY'S CORNER

### Ambassador Visits Provinces of Thanh Hoa and Nghe An



Ambassador Pranay Verma [visited Nghe An province](#) on 14 April to inaugurate the new building with six classroom blocks at the Ma Thanh Kindergarten in Yan Thanh district, constructed with the grant assistance from Government of India under the Quick Impact Project (QIP) programme. The project contributes to the efforts of the local government in developing educational infrastructure at grassroots level.



On the same day, Ambassador [visited Thanh Hoa province](#) and inaugurated a new hall for specialized activities at Hoang Quy Secondary School in Hoang Hoa district constructed with Indian grant assistance under the Quick Impact Project (QIP) programme. The new facility will assist the school in creating an archive of its history and achievements and will also house educational material for students to learn about the Indian culture and cultures of other countries.



During the visit, Chairman of Thanh Hoa Provincial People's Committee, H.E. Mr. Do Minh Tuan hosted a lunch meeting for Ambassador, during which both sides discussed possibilities for wide-ranging cooperation.



### Ambassador visits the Mekong Delta Region of Vietnam

Ambassador Pranay Verma visited [Hau Giang province](#) in the Mekong Delta Region of Vietnam on 6 April to inaugurate two Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in water resource management implemented with grant assistance of Government of India. He interacted with the beneficiaries of the projects and visited some of the households receiving clean water using these new facilities.



One of the QIPs entailed laying more than 4 km long clean water pipeline and supplying water tanks to nearly 200 households in Long My district which is frequently affected by droughts and saltwater intrusion. The other QIP related to dredging of fresh water storage channel and installation of an advanced water-saving irrigation system over 5.5 hectares of land and an automatic salinity measurement station in Chau Thanh district.



During the visit to the Mekong Delta Region, Ambassador Pranay Verma also inaugurated a QIP in [Kien Giang province](#) on 7 April under which Government of India has provided grant assistance for supplying 1000 litre water containers to more than 800 households in four coastal districts of the province. The project benefits nearly 3300 people in an area affected by drinking water scarcity due to frequent draughts and deep saltwater intrusion.

Under the ongoing QIP programme, Government of India has provided assistance for seven projects in water resource management in four provinces of the Mekong Delta Region of Vietnam - Tien Giang, Kien Giang, Hau Giang and Ben Tre - to help the region deal with severe scarcity of clean water and to bring benefits directly to local communities.

### India-Vietnam Tourism Promotion Event



As part of initiatives to promote tourism exchanges between India and Vietnam, the Consulate General of India in partnership with the Kien Giang People's Committee, organized an India-Vietnam Tourism Promotion event in Phu Quoc City on 8 April. Ambassador Pranay Verma addressed the event and highlighted the importance of tourism sector in the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery. He expressed optimism that with focused efforts from both sides and with restoration of air connectivity, the tourism flow between India

and Vietnam will significantly rise in 2022. He also highlighted India's numerous tourism attractions for Vietnamese tourists, including our shared Buddhist heritage.



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