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HANOI

INDIA NEWSLETTER



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INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)

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Prime Minister Participates in Quad Leaders' Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Japan on 24 May. The Leaders reiterated their shared commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the importance of upholding the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful resolution of disputes. They exchanged perspectives on developments in the Indo-Pacific and the conflict in Europe. Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's consistent and principled position on the need for cessation of hostilities, resumption of dialogue and diplomacy. The Leaders also took stock of ongoing Quad collaboration and their vision for the future.

Reviewing Quad's ongoing efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leaders welcomed the enhanced manufacturing capacity of Biological-E facility in India and the gift of 525,000 doses of India's vaccines under the Quad Vaccine Partnership. A Quad Climate Change Action and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) was announced to strengthen efforts towards green shipping, clean energy including green hydrogen and climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure. PM Modi called for greater Quad collaboration to build trusted global supply chains and emphasized the importance of delivering on Quad's positive and constructive agenda and show tangible benefits for the region.



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Prime Minister Attends IPEF Launch



“India has been a major center in the trade flows of the Indo-Pacific region for centuries”

PM Modi at Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

India is committed to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region

Economic engagement among partners is crucial for continued growth, peace & prosperity

IPEF is a declaration of a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific region an engine of global economic growth

Foundation of resilient supply chains must be 3T's – Trust, Transparency and Timeliness

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in an event in Tokyo on 23 May to launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). In his comments during the launch ceremony, PM said that announcement of IPEF is a declaration of a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific region an engine of global economic growth. India has historically been at the centre of trade flows in the Indo-Pacific region, having the world's oldest commercial port in Gujarat. PM Modi expressed India's commitment towards working with all Indo-Pacific countries for an IPEF which is both inclusive and flexible and underlined that the foundation of resilient supply chains must be 3T's – Trust, Transparency and Timeliness. India is committed to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and believes that deepening economic engagement among partners is crucial for continued growth, peace, and prosperity.

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BILATERAL CORNER

- **India-Vietnam Political Consultations and Strategic Dialogue**
- **3rd ICWA – VASS Dialogue**

INDIA'S DEFENCE SECTOR

- **Indian Navy Gets Boost with Indigenous Warships: INS Surat and INS Udaygiri**
- **IAF Successfully Fires Extended Range Version of Brahmos from Su-30 MKI**
- **Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System Successfully Tested by DRDO**



Prime Minister Addresses the 2nd Global Covid Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Second Global COVID Virtual Summit at the invitation of US President Joe Biden on 12 May. The PM delivered his remarks in the Opening Session of the Summit on the theme 'Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness'.



PM highlighted that India adopted a people-centric strategy to fight the pandemic and has made the highest ever allocation for its health budget this year. He stated that India was running the largest vaccination campaign in the world and had vaccinated close to 90% of its adult population and more than 50 million children. PM also highlighted that as a responsible member of the global community, India would continue to play an active role by sharing its low-cost indigenous COVID mitigation technologies, vaccines and therapeutics with other countries. India is working to extend its genomic surveillance consortium. India has used traditional medicine extensively and has laid the foundation for a WHO Center for Traditional Medicine in India to make this knowledge available to the world.

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PM Modi Addresses ICDRI 2022

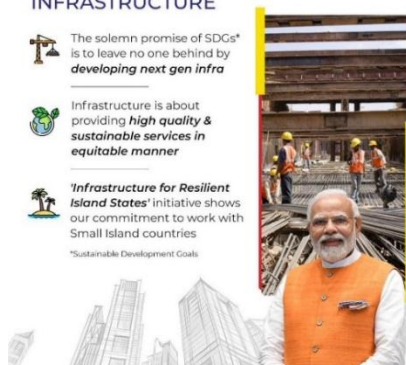
PM MODI ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

The solemn promise of SDGs* is to leave no one behind by developing next gen infra

Infrastructure is about providing high quality & sustainable services in equitable manner

'Infrastructure for Resilient Island States' initiative shows our commitment to work with Small Island countries

*Sustainable Development Goals



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the fourth edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure via video message on 4 May. At the outset, PM Modi affirmed that India remains committed to meeting the needs of the poorest and the most vulnerable by building the next generation infrastructure to realize their aspirations.

Infrastructure is about people and providing them high quality, dependable, and sustainable services in an equitable manner. India is putting the people at the heart of any infrastructure growth story. The PM also noted that India is tackling climate change in a very direct way. That is why the country committed to attain 'Net Zero' by 2070 at COP-26.

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PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Buddhist Centre in Nepal



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Lumbini, Nepal on 16 May coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Vaishakha Buddha Purnima. PM Modi and PM Deuba of Nepal visited the Mayadevi temple, within which lies the birthplace of Lord Buddha. At the temple, the PMs attended prayers conducted as per Buddhist rituals and made offerings. They lit lamps and visited the historical Ashoka Pillar, which carries the first epigraphic evidence of Lumbini being the birthplace of Lord Buddha.

PM Modi together with PM Deuba participated in the "Shilanyas" ceremony for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage at a plot in Lumbini. After the "Shilanyas" (foundation laying) ceremony, the Prime Ministers also unveiled a model of the Buddhist centre, which is envisaged as a Net-Zero compliant world-class facility and would be open to Buddhist pilgrims and tourists from around the world. The built-up area is 6300m² and it will be the first building in Nepal with Net Zero Emission. The cost of the project is around Rs 984.6 million (US\$12.7 million).



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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

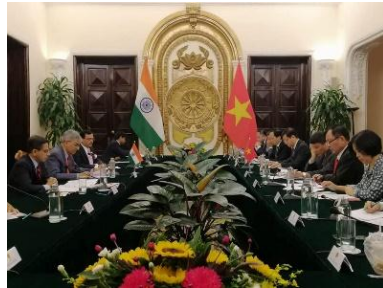
- India retains top spot as fastest-growing major economy: UN report
- India gets the highest annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion in FY21-22

INCREDIBLE INDIA

- Shravasti



India-Vietnam Political Consultations and Strategic Dialogue



Shri Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), MEA visited Hanoi on 30 May and co-chaired the 12th Political Consultations and the 9th Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Ministries of India and Vietnam with his counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Nguyen Minh Vu. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the sustained momentum in their multifaceted relations, despite the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, with frequent high-level engagements, including the recent telephone conversation between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Party General Secretary H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, as well as the visit of Speaker of Lok Sabha to Vietnam in April 2022. The two sides also discussed future cooperation agenda, including high-level exchanges and activities to mark the 50th anniversary of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations this year. Both sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest as they explored new opportunities for partnership to support each other's economic development and national security. Secretary (East) reaffirmed India's position of regarding Vietnam as a key partner in our Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific Vision. Both sides expressed satisfaction over their close coordination at regional and multilateral forums. They agreed to enhance their bilateral cooperation in line with India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and the ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific to achieve shared security, prosperity and growth for all in the region. During his visit, Secretary (East) also called on the Foreign Minister of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Bui Thanh Son.

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3rd ICWA – VASS Dialogue



The 3rd Annual Dialogue between premier academies of India and Vietnam, the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) was held on 26 May in Hanoi. Director General of ICWA, Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh led the delegation of Indian scholars, while Vice President of VASS Dr. Dang Xuan Thanh led the Vietnamese delegation during the dialogue.

This edition of dialogue coincided with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations and was themed as "Strengthening Vietnam-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". Discussions covered a wide-range of bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interest. Scholars from both sides agreed that on the foundations of deep mutual trust and understanding, India-Vietnam relations are poised to grow stronger amidst the emerging geo-political and geo-economic trends in the region and the world. During the visit, DG ICWA also met the President of VASS, H.E. Mr. Bui Nhat Quang.

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INDIA'S DEFENCE SECTOR

EMBASSY'S CORNER

- Celebration of Gurudev Tagore's 161st Birth Anniversary
- Ambassador Joins Vesak Day Celebration in Hanoi
- Ambassador Visits Quang Ninh Province
- Ambassador's Meeting with Chairman of Ethnic Minority Affairs Commission of Vietnam
- Ambassador Visits Tien Giang Province
- Ambassador Visits Ben Tre Province
- Ambassador Visits Khanh Hoa Province

Indian Navy Gets Boost with Indigenous Warships: INS Surat and INS Udaygiri



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy – 'Surat' and 'Udaygiri' - in Mumbai on 17 May. 'Surat' is the fourth Guided Missile Destroyer of P15B class, while 'Udaygiri' is the second Stealth Frigate of P17A class. Both warships have been designed in-house by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), Mumbai. The Defence Minister described the warships as an embodiment of the Government's unwavering commitment to enhancing the country's maritime capability, with focus on achieving *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*, at a time when the world is witnessing disruption in global supply chain. The Minister stated that the warships will be among the most technologically advanced missile carriers in the world. In the times to come, India will not only fulfill its own needs, but will also meet the shipbuilding requirements of the world. PM Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World' will soon be realized.

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IAF Successfully Fires Extended Range Version of Brahmos from Su-30 MKI



India on 12 May successfully fired the Extended Range Version of BrahMos Air Launched missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The launch from the aircraft was as planned and the missile achieved a direct hit on the designated target in the Bay of Bengal region.

It was the first launch of Extended Range version of BrahMos missile from Su-30MKI aircraft. With this, the IAF has achieved the capability to carry out precision strikes from Su-30MKI aircraft against a land/sea target over very long ranges. The dedicated and synergetic efforts of the IAF, Indian Navy, DRDO, BAPL and HAL have proven the capability of the nation to achieve this feat. The extended range capability of the missile coupled with the high performance of the Su-30MKI aircraft gives the IAF a strategic reach and allows it to dominate the future battle fields.



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Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System Successfully Tested by DRDO



Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at Pokhran Firing Ranges. A total of 24 EPRS rockets were fired for different ranges in April. Required accuracy and consistency was achieved by the rockets meeting all trial objectives satisfactorily.

The EPRS is the upgraded version of Pinaka variant which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The system has been upgraded with advanced technologies enhancing the range to meet the emerging requirements. After establishing the performance efficacy of the enhanced range version of Pinaka, the technology was transferred to the industries viz. Munitions India Limited (MIL) and Economic Explosives Limited Nagpur. Different variants of munitions and fuzes which can be used in the Pinaka rocket system were also successfully test evaluated in the Pokhran Field Firing Range.

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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

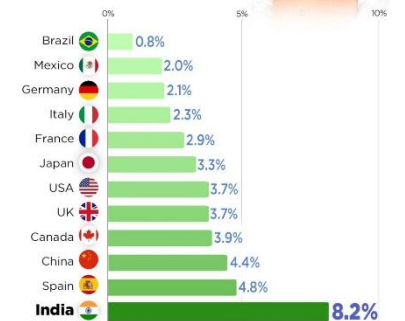
India retains top spot as fastest-growing major economy: UN report

According to the UN, India will be the fastest-growing major economy this fiscal year, with economic growth estimated at 6.4%. Chief of the UN's Global Economic Monitoring Branch Mr. Hamid Rashid said that he expects Indian recovery will be strong in the short term which is the next 1-2 years. When asked about India's stronger economic performance and prospects in comparison to the other major nations he attributed it to lower inflation, which does not necessitate as much monetary tightening as many of the other countries. Last fiscal year, India's economy grew by 8.8%. The IMF predicted an 8.2% growth rate in 2021-22, whereas the World Bank predicted 8%.

India is the world's fastest-growing major economy in the World: IMF



GDP Growth Projections in FY 2022

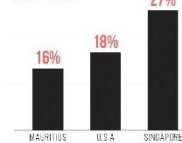


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India gets the highest annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion in FY21-22

INDIA EMERGING AS PREFERRED INVESTMENT DESTINATION AMONGST GLOBAL INVESTORS

TOP INVESTOR COUNTRIES OF FDI EQUITY INFLOW IN FY 2021-22:



According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, the country has recorded highest ever annual FDI inflow of US\$83.57 billion in the Financial Year 2021-22. In 2014-2015, FDI inflow in India stood at mere US\$45.15 billion as compared to the highest ever annual FDI inflow of US\$83.57 billion reported during the financial year 2021-22 overtaking last year's FDI by US\$1.6 billion despite military operation in Ukraine and COVID-19 pandemic. India's FDI inflows have increased 20-fold since FY03-04, when the inflows were US\$4.3 billion only. Further, India is rapidly emerging as a preferred country for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector. The trends in India's Foreign Direct Investment inflow are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Shravasti

The ancient city of Sravasti is a major pilgrimage centre for Buddhists and draws a large number of devotees from India and foreign countries. 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. Other must-visit tourist sites include the Angulimala's Stupa, the remains of which is one of the largest mounds found in Mahet area of Sravasti. The terraced stupa is built on a rectangular plain. Tourists can also visit the nearby Kachhi Kuti, the ruins of the Anathapindikya Stupa. Sravasti lies at a distance of 107 km from Ayodhya and makes for a great exploration.



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EMBASSY'S CORNER

Celebration of Gurudev Tagore 161st Birth Anniversary

On the occasion of the 161st birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Ambassador Pranay Verma paid floral tributes to Gurudev's bust at the National Museum of Literature in Hanoi.

To mark the occasion and to celebrate the #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, the Embassy and the Swami Vivekananda Culture Centre in Hanoi also organized a webinar on Gurudev Tagore's contributions to India-Vietnam relations. Prominent Vietnamese and Indian scholars - including the Chairman of Vietnam Writers' Association, Mr. Nguyen Quang Thieu, Dr. Do Thu Ha from University of Social Sciences in Hanoi and Dr. Om Prakash from India's Gautam Buddha University - shared their thoughts about the life and vision of Gurudev. In his opening remarks, Ambassador reflected on the deep imprint Gurudev Tagore's visit to Vietnam in June 1929 left on the intellectual exchanges as well as the national movements of India and Vietnam.



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Ambassador Joins Vesak Day Celebration in Hanoi



Ambassador Pranay Verma paid respects at the Quan Su Pagoda in Hanoi and joined the Vesak Day celebrations organized by the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha on 15 May 2022. In media interactions during the event, Ambassador reaffirmed the age-old Buddhist linkages between India and Vietnam and their importance in promoting people-to-people exchanges in modern times.

In a separate event to celebrate the Vesak Day, the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS), Vietnam-India Friendship Association of Hanoi (HAVIFA) in coordination with the Swami Vivekananda Culture Center, Embassy of India, also held a celebration at Yen Phu Pagoda, Hanoi.

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Ambassador Visits Quang Ninh Province

Ambassador Pranay Verma visited Quang Ninh province on 21 May and held discussions with Party Secretary of the province H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Ky on wide-ranging collaborations between the two sides. They agreed to organize a number of events this year to mark the 50 years of India-Vietnam diplomatic relations and 75 years of India's Independence, and to promote trade, tourism and cultural exchanges, including the celebration of the International Day of Yoga in Quang Ninh province.



Ambassador's Meeting with Chairman of Ethnic Minority Affairs Commission of Vietnam



Ambassador Pranay Verma was invited by the Minister-Chairman of Commission for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) of Vietnam and Party Central Committee Member, H.E. Mr. Hau A Lenh at the CEMA headquarters in Hanoi on 12 May 2022 to explore bilateral cooperation opportunities for socio-economic development of ethnic minority regions in Vietnam.

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