



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI**

INDIA NEWSLETTER



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

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Hon'ble Smt. Droupadi Murmu Elected as the 15th President of India



On 21 July, the Election Commission of India declared Smt. Droupadi Murmu, former Governor of the State of Jharkhand, as the 15th President of India with 64% of the votes. She is the first-ever President to come from a tribal community, the second female President of India, and the first President born after independence.

In her [address](#) during the oath-taking ceremony on 25 July, she stated that it is a tribute to the power of India's democracy that a daughter born in a poor house in a remote tribal area can reach the highest constitutional position in India. It is proof of the fact that the poor in India can have dreams and fulfil them too.

In a series of congratulatory tweets, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that her assumption of office is a watershed moment for India especially for the poor, marginalised and downtrodden. He also said that in her assumption speech, the President emphasised on India's accomplishments and presented a futuristic vision of the path ahead at a time when India is marking 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Prime Minister Participates in the First I2U2 Summit



The first Leaders' Summit of I2U2 was held virtually on 14 July with the participation of leaders of India, Israel, UAE, and the U.S. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was joined by Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid, President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President Joe Biden of the U.S at the online Summit. The I2U2 Grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries held on 18 October 2021. The four countries also have Sherpa-level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation. I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security. The Leaders discussed the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen economic partnership in trade and investment in their respective regions and beyond.

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INDIA'S DEFENCE SECTOR

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- **India Receives Record FDI Equity Inflow in R&D Sector in 2021**

India Crosses Two-Billion Vaccine Doses Mark

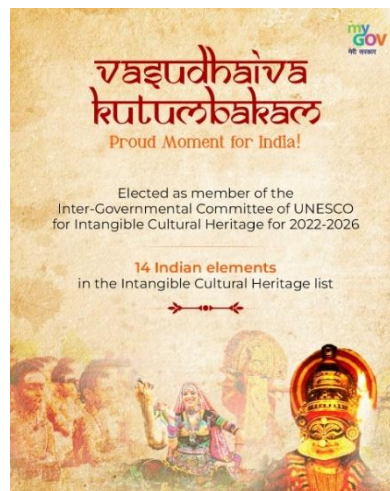
In a historic achievement, India's COVID-19 vaccination drive surpassed the two-billion milestone on 17 July. In a tweet, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the people of India on bringing about this significant feat. He called India's vaccination drive "unparalleled in scale and speed".

India's nation-wide COVID-19 vaccination supported the research, development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and use of cutting-edge technologies. Despite the decline in COVID-19 cases across the country, consistent efforts are ongoing to vaccinate all eligible citizens. This is exemplified by the fact that it took almost 9 months to reach the one-billion mark and another 9 months to reach the 2 billion mark since the start of the vaccination drive on 16 January 2021.



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India and Vietnam Elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage



India and Vietnam have been [elected](#) as members of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for 2022-2026. India has previously served as a member of the ICH Committee twice - from 2006 to 2010 & from 2014 to 2018.

The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention consists of 24 members and is elected in the General Assembly of the Convention according to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation. States Members to the Committee are elected for a term of four years. With [14 inscriptions](#) on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, India also ranks high in the listing of intangible cultural heritage.

India Bans Single-use Plastic

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on 21 July, Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed that, with effect from 1 July 2022, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use single-use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential have been banned under the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2021.

Items banned include:

(i) earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;

(ii) plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

The notification also prohibits the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

- Ahmedabad, Kerala included in List of the World's Greatest Places of 2022

EMBASSY'S CORNER

- Ambassador Meets Party Secretary of HCM City
- India – Vietnam Pharmaceutical & Health Industry Conference Held in HCM City
- Ambassador Visits Tuyen Quang Province to Inaugurate Two Development Projects



Prime Minister Unveils National Emblem Cast on Roof of New Parliament Building

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the National Emblem cast on the roof of the New Parliament Building on 11 July. The National Emblem is made of bronze with a total weight of 9500 kg and is 6.5 m in height. It has been cast at the top of the Central Foyer of New Parliament Building. A supporting structure of steel weighing around 6500 Kg has been constructed to support the Emblem.

The new Parliament building is expected to be completed by October 2022 to seat the winter session of the Parliament. The new Parliament will have an area of 64,500 square metres.

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INDIA'S DEFENCE SECTOR

Delivery of Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 'Vikrant'



Indian Navy created maritime history on 28 July by taking delivery of the prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' from her builder Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi. Designed by Indian Navy's inhouse Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by CSL, a Public Sector Shipyard under Ministry of Shipping (MoS), the carrier is christened after her illustrious predecessor, India's first Aircraft Carrier which played a vital role in the 1971 war. Coinciding with the celebrations to commemorate 75th

anniversary of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the reincarnation of Vikrant is a true testimony to the country's zeal and fervor in pursuing capability build up towards enhanced maritime security.

The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier would soon be commissioned into the Indian Navy as Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant which would bolster India's position in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its quest for a blue water Navy.

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NIIO Seminar on Indigenisation of Naval Technologies

'Swavlamban', the maiden seminar of the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO), was held on 18-19 July.

The highlight of the seminar was the release of the iDEX DISC7 (SPRINT) challenges by the Prime Minister. SPRINT (Supporting Pole-vaulting in R&D through iDEX, NIIO and TDAC) is a collaborative project between the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) and NIIO aimed at developing at least 75 indigenous technologies/products as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The challenges span across a wide range of niche technology fields including Artificial Intelligence (AI), autonomous and unmanned systems and Information Technology.



The second day of the seminar was reserved for outreach to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) in accordance with the Government's articulated vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and opportunity was accorded to the industry to showcase their 'export ready' products to the friendly foreign countries.

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Defence Minister Launches Project 17A frigate Y-3023 Dunagiri



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched Y-3023 Dunagiri, Project 17A frigate built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata on 15 July. P17A Frigates are follow-on class of the P17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems. Seven P17A Frigates are under various stages of construction at Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL) and GRSE.

Speaking on the occasion, the Defence Minister praised the efforts of Directorate of Naval Design and other Naval Teams in realizing the Nation's quest for self-reliance with regard to warship building. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar said the Dunagiri project generated more than 3000 local employment opportunities. In addition, 29 Indian OEMs along with MSMEs across the country are contributing to this project. Thus, the Navy's budget has a significant 'plough-back' into the economy and towards Nation-building. 88% of Navy's future contracts amounting to investments of nearly Rs 1750 billion (~US\$22 billion) are being progressed through Indian Enterprises.

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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

Digital India Week – “Catalyzing New India's Techade”



The Digital India Week 2022 with the theme 'Catalyzing New India's Techade' was held on 4-9 July to commemorate the path-breaking journey of the Digital India Programme initiative that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The event came in the backdrop of India emerging as the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups globally. Backed by the strong tailwinds created under the umbrella of the Digital India programme and successive campaigns, India has nearly 73,000 startups and 100+ unicorns. After the watershed year of 2021 which saw a record addition of 44 unicorns despite the pandemic, six months into 2022 have seen 17 startups entering the unicorn club with a

total valuation of US\$ 22 billion. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is supporting more than 2000 startups with a yearly budgetary outlay of 100+ crores (dozens of millions of USD).

During the programme, Prime Minister Modi also launched multiple digital initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility of technology, streamlining service delivery to ensure ease of living and giving a boost to startups, including Digital India GENESIS (Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups). The platform envisages impacting and consolidating 10,000+ tech start-ups over the course of the next 5 years.

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471 to nearly 73,000: India's start-ups have increased 15,400% in last 6 years

In India, the number of established startups has risen by 15,400% during the past six years. The number of new-age enterprises, which operate in 56 diversified sectors, increased from 471 in 2016 to 72,993 in 2022. Over 4,500 start-ups have been recognised in sectors such as the internet of things (IoT), robotics, artificial intelligence and analytics. In terms of the number of startups created over the past six years and the employment they have generated, Maharashtra has edged out Delhi and Karnataka for the top rank. In Maharashtra, 13,519 startups were established which generated 146,000 jobs over this period. Karnataka registered 8,881 startups and 103,000 jobs, while the national capital registered 8,636 startups and 87,643 jobs.

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India Receives Record FDI Equity Inflow in FY2021-22

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on 29 July, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash informed that the Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), wherein most sectors, except certain strategically important sectors, are open for 100% FDI under the automatic route.

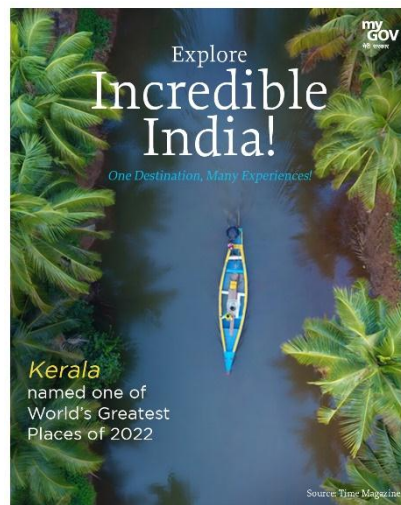
Measures taken by the Government on FDI policy reforms have resulted in increased FDI inflows in the country. India has received its highest ever FDI inflow of INR 6310 billion (US\$ 79 billion) in FY 2021-22. Further, FDI Equity inflow in Manufacturing sectors has increased to INR 1583 billion (US\$ 20 billion) in FY 2021-22 from INR 897 billion (US\$ 11 billion) FY 2020-21, which is an increase of 76%.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Ahmedabad, Kerala included in List of the World's Greatest Places of 2022

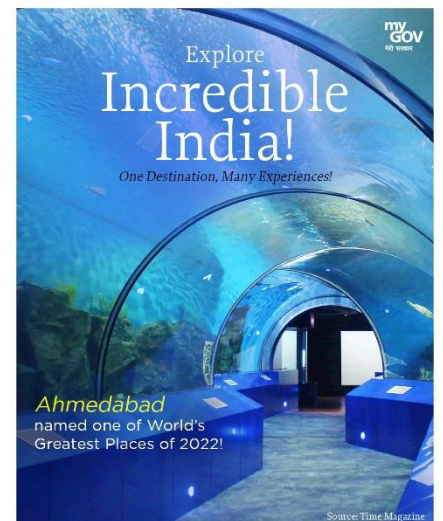


In the recently published list of the World's Greatest Places of 2022, TIME magazine has included Kerala and Ahmedabad among its 50 extraordinary destinations to explore.

[Kerala](#) is blessed with a unique set of geographical features that have made it one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in Asia. A long shoreline with serene beaches, tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters, lush hill stations and exotic wildlife, are just a few of the wonders. Most of the state is engulfed in rich greenery which ensures a very calming experience at all times. Bestowed with a pleasant and equable climate throughout the year, Kerala is a tropical land where one can relax and be at ease.



Declared as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, [Ahmedabad](#) or Amdavad is steeped in history and tradition. Offering a seamless blend of spectacular architecture of centuries-old mosques and contemporary avant-garde design, Gujarat's biggest city is a bustling cosmopolitan hub. Ahmedabad is divided into two parts, cut into distinct sections by the Sabarmati river. On the eastern bank of the river stands the quaint old quarter, which is marked by winding lanes throbbing with tradition and culture, and on the western side is the sprawling new town that has created a niche for itself with world-class urban planning. Add to this a vibrant array of street-food and colourful bazaars, and Ahmedabad becomes a tourist hub where one would be spoilt for choices.



EMBASSY'S CORNER

Ambassador Meets Party Secretary of HCM City



During his visit to Ho Chi Minh City on 6 July, Ambassador Pranay Verma met the Party Secretary of HCM City and Politburo Member, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Van Nen and discussed bilateral cooperation in wide-ranging areas. Consul General Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi also accompanied him. Party Secretary Nen had a very productive visit to India in June 2022 as part of high-level exchanges during the 50th anniversary year of India-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations.

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India – Vietnam Pharmaceuticals & Health Industry Conference Held in HCM City



On 5 June, the Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City, the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) and Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ho Chi Minh Branch (VCCI-HCM) jointly organized the “India – Vietnam Pharmaceuticals & Health Industry Conference”, which was followed by a B2B meet, at Le Meridien Hotel, District 1, HCMC. The event was attended and addressed by

H.E. Mr. Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, Mr. Tran Ngoc Liem, General Director of VCCI-HCM, Mr. Murali Krishna, Director of Pharmexcil, Dr. Ta Manh Hung, Dy Director General, Drug Administration of Viet Nam (DAV), Ministry of Health, Master Le Ngoc Danh, Dy. Head, Drug Technique Division, Department of Health of Ho Chi Minh City. More than 100 Indian and Vietnamese companies majoring in pharmaceutical sector joined the event and had successfully B2B meetings.

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Ambassador Visits Tuyen Quang Province to Inaugurate Two Development Projects



Ambassador Pranay Verma visited the northern province of Tuyen Quang on 7-8 July 2022 to inaugurate two school projects implemented under Government of India's Quick Impact Project (QIP) programme in the province. The school infrastructure constructed respectively in Binh An and Hong Quang communes in the remote Lam Binh district have greatly facilitated primary education in this mountainous district inhabited by ethnic minority communities, thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals of Vietnam. During his visit, Ambassador also met the Party Secretary of Tuyen Quang province H.E. Mr. Chau Van Lam and discussed bilateral cooperation opportunities in areas such as healthcare, education, trade and investment, tourism and cultural exchanges.

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