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INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)



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PM inaugurates IECC



On 26 July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi and unveiled the G-20 coin and G-20 stamp.

Visioned by the Prime Minister and developed as a national project at a cost of about Rs 2700 crores with a campus area of approximately 123 acres, the IECC complex has been developed as India's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination and will help in promoting India as a global business destination.

The Centre is developed to host large-scale international exhibitions, trade fairs, conventions, conferences, and other prestigious events. The architectural design is inspired by Indian traditional art and culture while also embracing modern facilities.

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23rd Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of States



The 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held on 4-5 July in the virtual format under the chair of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The leaders adopted the New Delhi Declaration and two thematic joint statements – one on cooperation in countering radicalization, and the second one on cooperation in the field of digital transformation.

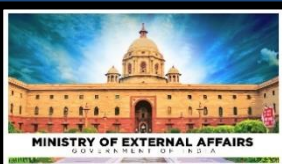
When India assumed the presidency of SCO in September 2022, PM Modi articulated India's priority for the SCO Chair with the theme of 'Towards a SECURE SCO' – SECURE standing for Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.

During its Presidency, India hosted more than 134 events in the last nine months. There were in total 15 Ministerial level meetings and four Heads of agency meetings across different areas. Five initiatives were proposed by India and adopted at these Ministerial level meetings: (i) the concept of the development of digital public infrastructure, DPIs, for the promotion of digital technologies among the population, in particular, digital inclusion and innovation, (ii) the cooperation among the SCO Member States on emerging fuels, (iii) working together to combat the challenges of climate change, plastic pollution, marine plastic litter, air pollution, with focus on resource efficiency and circular economy, (iv) decarbonizing the transport infrastructure, promoting digital transformation and innovative technologies, (v) the first ever report on digital financial inclusion policies in the SCO Member States.

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BILATERAL CORNER

- **INS Airavat visits Da Nang**
- **Vietnam Justice Minister visits India**
- **Foreign Ministers met on the sideline of AMM-56**
- **Ambassador met with Party Secretary of Hanoi**
- **Ambassador met with Chairman of HCM City**
- **Ambassador met with Deputy Party Secretary of Binh Duong**



12th MGC Meeting

External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, co-chaired the 12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting in Bangkok on 16 July along with FM of Lao PDR Saleumxay Kommasith. H. E. Mr. Bui Thanh Son, Foreign Minister of Vietnam attended the event virtually.



- ➔ Prioritizing the implementation of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway
- ➔ Expedite the conclusion of the Motor Vehicles Agreement between the three countries
- ➔ Established an MGC Business Council to take forward economic cooperation
- ➔ Explored new areas of development partnership, including through Quick Impact Projects
- ➔ Expand the ambit of exchanges in agriculture, science and technology and water resource management
- ➔ Take forward culture and tourism, and deepen our museum-based cooperation

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ISRO reaches another milestone in space exploration



Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) PSLV-C56 launch vehicle successfully placed seven satellites into their planned orbits under a contract with Singapore from the first launch-pad of SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota was accomplished successfully on 30 July. PSLV-C56 carried DS-SAR satellite, a 360 kg satellite into a near-equatorial Orbit (NEO) at 5 degrees inclination and 535 km altitude, along with 6 co-passengers.

The DS-SAR satellite was developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering. Once deployed and operational, it will be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore.

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BILATERAL CORNER

INS Airavat visits Cam Ranh



Indigenously built Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrived at Cam Ranh Port, Vietnam for a port call from 21-25 July 2023 and professional & social interactions with Vietnam Peoples' Navy. During the visit, Adm R Hari Kumar called on Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of the General Staff Vietnam People's Army (VPA) and Deputy Defence Minister, Vietnam on 24 Jul 2023. Discussions focussed on the alignment of views on maritime security challenges and mutual commitment to enhance cooperation through constructive and collaborative efforts in region.

BILATERAL CORNER

- QIP project handed over in Hai Phong
- Lao Cai delegation visits India
- AP Minister visits Vietnam



Vietnam Justice Minister visits India



Vietnam's Minister of Justice Mr. Nguyen Thanh Long met Indian Vice President Mr. Jagdeep Dhankhar on 3 July 2023 and held discussions with India's Law and Justice Minister Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal in New Delhi on enhancing India-Vietnam cooperation and exchanges in the legal domain.

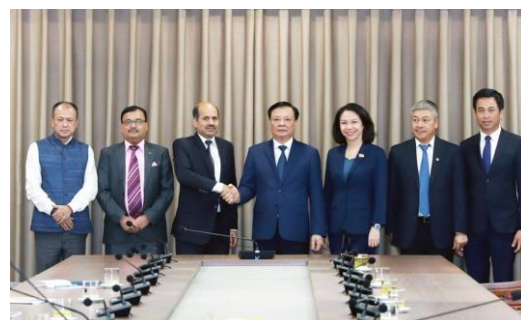
Foreign Ministers met on the sideline of AMM-56



External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar had a useful meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart, H. E. Mr. Bui Thanh Son, Foreign Minister of Vietnam in Jakarta on 12 July on the sidelines of the AMM-56. The Ministers discussed trade and investment, energy, air connectivity and cultural cooperation. They also exchanged views on contemporary regional and global issues.

Ambassador met with Party Secretary of Hanoi

Ambassador held encouraging discussions with Politburo Member & Hanoi Party Committee Secretary, H.E Mr. Dinh Tien Dung on 4 July on economic, business, culture and people-to-people level opportunities and initiatives in Hanoi in the context of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.



Ambassador met with Chairman of HCM City



Productive discussions held by Indian Ambassador on business, scientific and cultural cooperation with Mr. Phan Van Mai, Chairman of People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City; on academic exchanges with Director, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics-Region II; Indian enterprises in Ho Chi Minh City on 17 July 2023.

Ambassador met with Deputy Party Secretary of Binh Duong



On 18-19 July, Ambassador held useful meetings with Standing Deputy Party Secretary of Binh Duong, Mr. Nguyen Hoang Thao, industrial park and Indian investors. He also discussed cultural cooperation opportunities with Chairman and Board of Vietnam India Friendship Association in Ho Chi Minh City.

INCREDIBLE INDIA

- Rejuvenating India's Cultural and Spiritual Heritage
- Global Tiger Day, India's Comprehensive Tiger Report released at Corbett Tiger Reserve
- Chennai – Cornucopia of Cultures



QIP project handed over in Hai Phong



In early July, Ambassador handed over facilities for old, disabled people built with Indian support in Hai Phong's An Lao district, taking India-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership to local community and people.

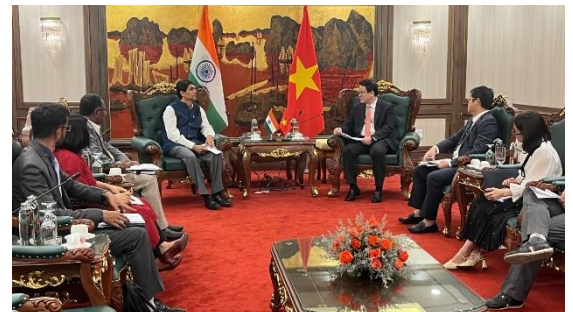
Lao Cai delegation visits India



Executive Committee Member of the Party Central Committee and Party Secretary of Lao Cai province, Mr. Dang Xuan Phong and Governor of Bihar, H.E. Mr. Rajendra Arlekar had discussed cooperation in trade & economy, culture & tourism in Patna on 26 July. Lao Cai delegation attended conference on promoting investment, trade and tourism between Lao Cai - India where six MoUs were signed. The delegation also visited Bodh Gaya, Varanasi, Kushinagar and Agra.

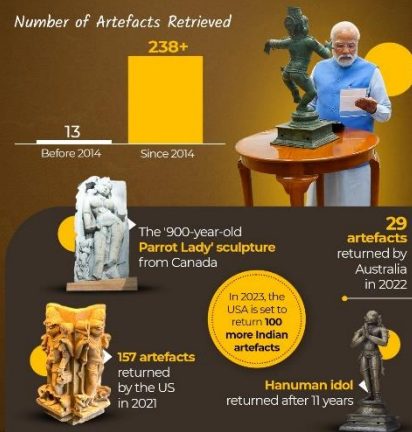
AP Minister visits Vietnam

Andhra Pradesh Minister of Finance & Skills Development, Mr. Buggana Rajendranath met Mr. Tran Quoc Phuong, Vietnam's Vice Minister of Planning and Investment of Vietnam in Hanoi; also engaged with various skill development and economic institutions from 21-23 July.



INCREDIBLE INDIA

Retrieving India's Stolen Artefacts



Rejuvenating India's Cultural and Spiritual Heritage

The Government of India, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, is committed to bringing back India's antiquities & artefacts from across the world. Over centuries, innumerable priceless artefacts, some with deep cultural and religious significance, had been stolen and smuggled abroad. The government adopts a proactive approach to 'bringing back Indian artefacts and cultural heritage'. On numerous foreign visits, PM Modi discussed the matter with global leaders and multilateral institutions. As of 24 April 2023, 251 invaluable antiquities of Indian origin have been retrieved from different countries, out of which 238 have been brought back since 2014.

Global Tiger Day, India's Comprehensive Tiger Report released at Corbett Tiger Reserve



On the occasion of the Global Tiger Day celebrated at the Corbett Tiger Reserve on 29 July 2023, a detailed report was released by Union MoS Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

In 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger, an ambitious, holistic conservation project, aimed at safeguarding the nation's tiger population and preserving biodiversity. Over the past 50 years, Project Tiger has achieved commendable success, making significant strides in tiger conservation. Initially covering nine tiger reserves spanning 18,278 km², the project has flourished into a remarkable accomplishment with 53 reserves spread across 75,796 km², effectively

covering 2.3% of India's total land area. India currently harbors almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population.

On April 9, 2022, during the celebration of 50 years of the Project Tiger at Mysuru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the minimum tiger population of 3167, which is the population estimate from the camera-trapped area. Now, further analysis of data, done by the Wildlife Institute of India, from both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, the upper limit of the tiger population is estimated to be 3925 and the average number is 3682 tigers, reflecting a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum. Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains witnessed notable increases in tiger population, particularly in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra.

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Chennai – Cornucopia of Cultures



Ancient temples, vibrant arts, natural wonders and a bustling culinary scene make Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the southern fringes of India. Located on the Coromandel Coast, this busy metropolis was formerly called Madras. From the resplendent classical dance form of bharatnatyam to the rich flavours of its iconic cuisine and from the lustrous silk sarees traded here to the gorgeous temples and churches, Chennai is the gatekeeper of South Indian art, culture and traditions. The city is also the perfect base from which trips to other locales in Tamil Nadu can take off.

Alongside heritage, flourish natural and contemporary highlights: sprawling beaches with natural and man-made wonders, a bustling seaport, quirky cafes, a multi-transport system, theme parks, industrial hubs, hi-tech parks and universities. Its population is a heterogenous mix of locals, expats and people from the rest of India. Chennai is widely known as the "Detroit of India", a moniker it earned because of the high concentration of automobile factories located in and around here.

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