



Vol 13

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Commemorating Shri K Sankara Pillai's sacrifice
(died in the line of duty on April 19, 1961, serving at High Commission of India, Ottawa)



High Commissioner unveiling the Pillai Memorial Hall plaque at HCI Ottawa

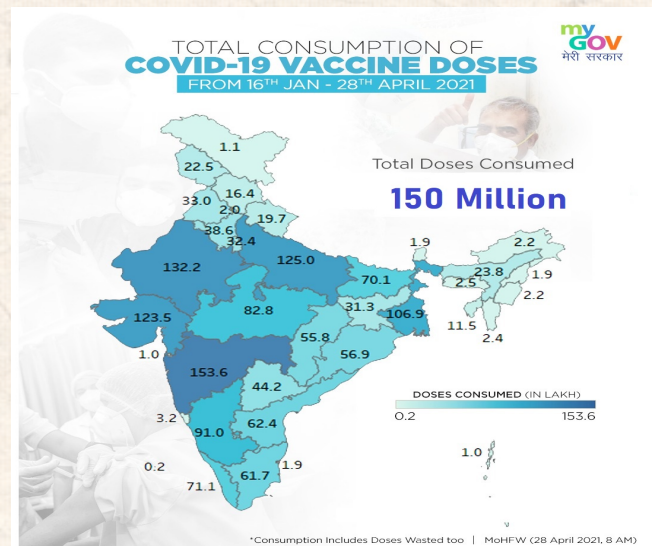
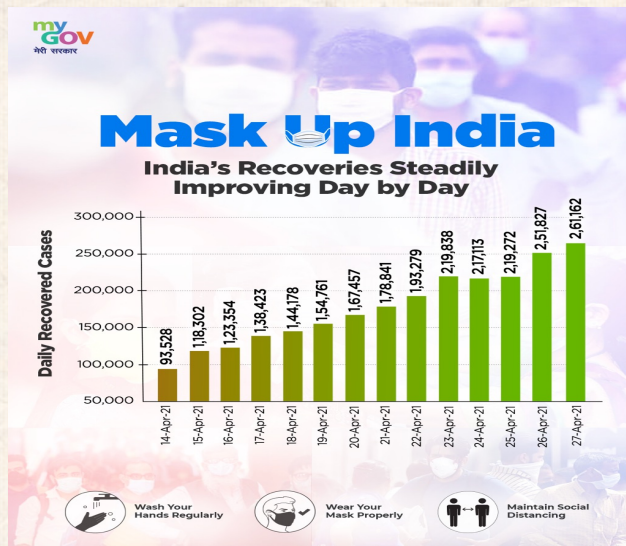


Foreign Secretary's virtual message for Shri K S Pillai Memorial meeting at HCI, Ottawa

For watching the telecast of the proceedings, click [here](#).

NEWS ROUND-UP

India fights Corona with the largest vaccine drive; recovery rates on a steady increase



PM reviews COVID-19 Pandemic situation and Vaccination Program in India

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to review the COVID-19 pandemic situation and vaccination program in the country. The PM directed that for sustainable COVID-19 management, awareness of the community and there is a need to continue Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan for COVID-19 management. He mentioned that the five-fold strategy of Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Covid-appropriate behaviour and Vaccination would be effective in curbing the spread of the pandemic.



Major Cabinet decisions by the Government of India

CABINET DECISION 20 APRIL 2021

Easing Lives, Decongesting Transportation in Bangalore
Cabinet Approves Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase 2A & Phase 2B

- Phase 2A project will connect Central Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram & Phase 2B will connect K.R. Puram to Airport via Hebbal Junction
- The total length of the projects is 58.19 km with an estimated cost of ₹14,788.101 crore
- Implementation of the project will provide the much needed additional public transport infrastructure to Bangalore

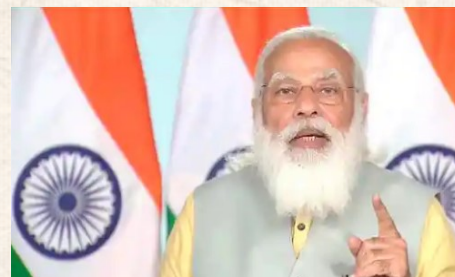
CABINET DECISION 20 APRIL 2021

Addressing Grievances of Taxpayers
Cabinet Approves Amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021

- The amendments to the Bill are tax proposals which shall generate timely revenue for the Govt & streamline existing provisions
- Will address stakeholders concerns arising out of amendments proposed in the Finance Bill and to further clarify and rationalise the proposals
- To provide equity & inclusiveness to all the taxpayers by addressing stakeholders concerns

Union cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive scheme for white goods

Taking another important step towards the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights) with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 6,238 crores. The prime objective of the PLI scheme is to make manufacturing in India globally competitive by removing sectoral disabilities, creating economies of scale and ensuring efficiencies. It is designed to create complete component ecosystem in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains. [Read more](#)



Toronto Business Development Centre Signs MOU With InFED And IIM Nagpur



The Toronto Business Development Centre (TBDC), at a virtual event held on 15th April 2021, signed a MOU with InFED and IIM Nagpur to launch joint ecosystem initiatives for start-ups and budding entrepreneurs looking to scale up in North America. The event, focussed on the Indian Startup ecosystems and explored pathways to orchestrate growth opportunities for high potential start-ups. Neha Bahl, CEO of TBDC, spoke at the session around TBDC and SUV covering landscape in Canada and being the go-to market for Indian start-ups, emerging trends and opportunities that will impact the start-up ecosystem in North America.

Canada province's premier backs India's farm laws, says they will yield results

The premier of a Canadian province has backed the three farm laws passed by India last year that have been triggering protests in India and abroad, arguing that they will yield results in the long term as similar measures in Canada had seen a beneficial outcome. Scott Moe, Saskatchewan's premier, made the comment while participating in a webinar organised by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC). [Read more](#)



India elected by acclamation to 3 bodies of UN Economic and Social Council

In a major achievement, India on April 20, 2021, was elected to three United Nations Economic and Social Council bodies. India was elected by acclamation to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022. India was elected by acclamation to the Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2022. India is a member of the UN Commission on Status of Women for a period of four years. From 2021 to 2025, The United Nations Commission on Status of Women is a body of the Economic and Social Council-ECOSOC.



PM Modi attends Leaders' Summit on Climate on April 22 at Biden's invitation

Addressing a US-hosted virtual summit of 40 global leaders, PM Modi said sustainable lifestyles and guiding philosophy of "back to basics" must be important pillars of the economic strategy for the post-COVID era. The Prime Minister said he and President Biden are launching the 'India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership'. "Together, we will help mobilise investments, demonstrate clean technologies, and enable green collaborations," he said at the summit. [Read more](#)



India contributes US\$1 million to the AMISOM Trust Fund



AMISOM - African Union Mission In Somalia

AMISOM is playing an important role in providing an enabling security environment in Somalia, including in containing Al-Shabaab and terrorist attacks in Somalia. This is important not just for Somalia but for the wider Horn of Africa region. India commends and pays tribute to all AMISOM troop and police contributing countries for their sustained commitment and the sacrifices they have made. Renewing its commitment to peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, India has contributed of US\$ 1 million to the United Nations Trust Fund in support of the African Union in Somalia (AMISOM). [Read more](#)

Canada To Provide 10 Million Dollars to India For Fight Against COVID-19: Justin Trudeau

Canada will provide 10 million dollars to India to support the country in its fight against the unprecedented second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced. Addressing a press conference, Prime Minister Trudeau said that Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau had direct conversations with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar about how Canada can best help, including the donation of extra medical supplies. "We know that we need to be there for our friends," Justin Trudeau said while speaking about India. [Read more](#)



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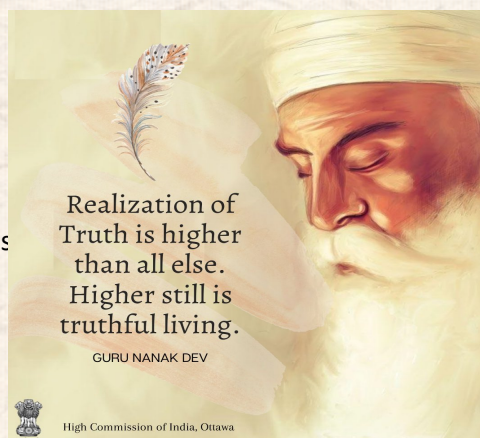
On April 8, 2021, High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria participated as the chief guest in the webinar organized by Sahyog, (an initiative of Overseas Friends of India Canada) and spoke on mental health issues of Indian international students in Canada. He also suggested that students reach out to available resources if they are feeling the pandemic related stress. If you are an international student who needs one on one counselling or mental therapy, please call +1-613-413-2613.

High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria spoke at the launch of HCL, Global Delivery Center at Mississauga. He indicated that the arrival of a global delivery center of HCL in Ontario is an indicator of the strong and vibrant economic corridor between India and Ontario within the overall rubric of India-Canada strategic partnership. He also thanked Premier Doug Ford for his strong support and continued championing of deeper and greater ties between India and Ontario.



ARTS & CULTURE

To commemorate 400th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, PM chaired a High-Level Committee Meeting. PM highlighted teachings & lessons learnt from Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, stating that various activities will be organized throughout the year to commemorate the event. Also, as a part of the celebration of the Sikh Heritage Month in Canada, a social media campaign series with gems of wisdom from Sikh Gurus, was launched by the High Commission of India in Ottawa over their social media channels.



Ministry of External Affairs
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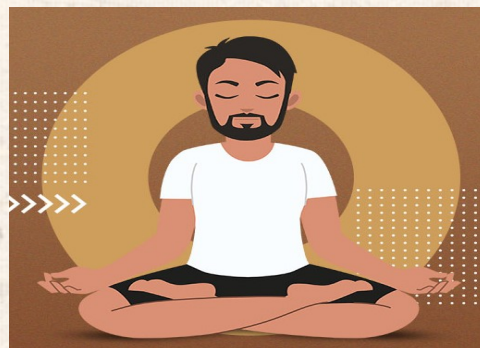
INDIA
PERSPECTIVES
TAKING INDIA TO THE WORLD

AVAILABLE IN
16
LANGUAGES

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

PM Yoga Awards for 2021

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, on the second International Day of Yoga announced two Yoga awards – one International and other National – to be given on the occasion of International Day of Yoga. The purpose of the Award is to recognize and felicitate individual(s)/ organization(s) who have made significant impact on the society for a sustained period of time by way of promotion and development of Yoga. For application details [read more](#)



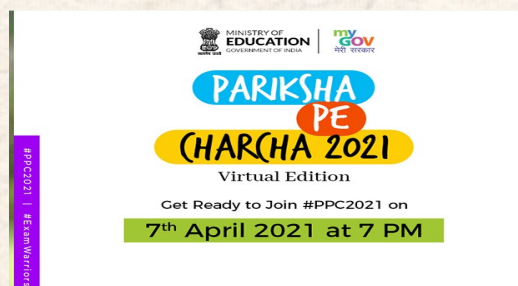
EDUCATION



Nālandā
UNIVERSITY

Admissions open for Nālandā University - an avant-garde, international, research-intensive university located at the historical city of Rajgir, India, administered by the Ministry of External Affairs of India. The university is supported by 17 Member countries of the East Asia Summit. For admission details please [read here](#).

This year's Pariksha Pe Charcha was the fourth edition of the event and PM Modi interacted with all of them in virtual mode due to the pandemic. In the programme, PM Modi answered the questions of students on how they can beat exam stress. Along with this the Prime Minister also shared tips on how to perform well in the upcoming board exams. [Read more](#)



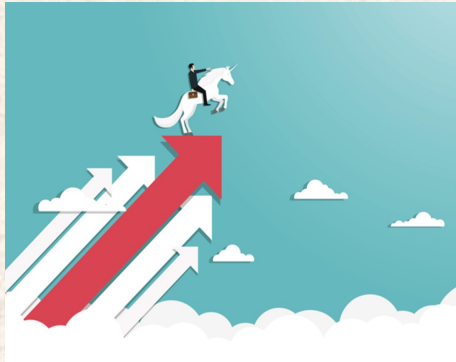
ECONOMY

Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules'

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's proposal for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV (Photo Valtic) Modules' for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt (GW) scale in high efficiency solar PV modules with an outlay of Rs.4,500 crore.



India minted 6 new unicorns in 4 days



In the space of four days, the country minted at least six new startups with a valuation of \$1 billion or more—what techies call unicorns because they're supposed to be such rarities.

In rough order of size: The investment platform Groww raised money at a valuation of more than \$1 billion, messaging bot's start-up Gupshup hit \$1.4 billion, digital pharmacy API Holdings Pvt. was valued at close to \$1.5 billion, app developer Mohalla Tech surpassed \$2.1 billion, social commerce start-up Meesho Inc. also reached \$2.1 billion and financial-technology provider Cred rounded out the blessing of unicorns at \$2.2 billion. [Read more](#)

COMMUNITY VIBES

Celebration of the 35th Annual Vegetarian Banquet of the Hindu Society of Saskatchewan

For over three decades the Hindu Society of Saskatchewan has been hosting an annual vegetarian banquet. The food is an important part of the event but the most meaningful aspect is building bridges, the society's president says. "We are in a global society where we have many cultures and traditions coming together, which can be a source of strength" Mr. Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon addressing HSS 35th Annual Vegetarian Banquet (virtual event) on April 24th. HE Mr Ajay Bisaria also congratulated the society on consistently showcasing the Indian heritage and culture to the Province of Saskatchewan.



ADVISORES

- Guidelines for applicants for registering grievance [Click here](#)
- Advisory for OCI Card holders [Click here](#)
- Beware about Scam Telephone Calls. See our advisory [here](#)



MEA Performance Smart Board

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