India-Australia ties will have a key role in post-COVID-19 world: PM Modi

Prime Minister Modi has said that a strong partnership between India and Australia will play an important role in shaping the post-COVID-19 world. Speaking at the India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE), the Prime Minister added that there was a need to look at our consumption patterns and how their ecological impact could be reduced. “This is where the concept of a circular economy comes in. It can be a key step in solving many of our challenges,” he said.

“With Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Australia, we aspire to achieve yet new heights in our collaboration.”
- PM MODI
India-Australia taking bilateral trade, cybersecurity & AI inter alia, to new heights

Australia and India aim to work together in the fields of advanced technology, including AI, IoT and cybersecurity after the two countries signed a US$ 12.7 million agreement in June. In July 2020, Indian and Australian Prime Ministers elevated the relationship between the two nations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. At the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020 (BTS2020), PM Scott Morrison said, “India and Australia have unlimited possibilities of working together in space research, critical minerals, 5G, AI, quantum computing and much more and have signed the landmark Australia-India technology Framework Agreement on cyber and cyber enabled technology, aiming for an open, free, safe and secure internet”.


3rd India-Australia-Japan-USA Quad Ministerial Meeting

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs participated in the 3rd India-Australia-Japan-USA Quad Ministerial Meeting held on 18 February 2021 with his counterparts Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The Ministers highlighted their shared attributes as political democracies, market economies and pluralistic societies. They recognized that the changes underway in the world makes a strong case for their countries working closely together. The Ministers emphasized their commitment to upholding a rules-based international order, underpinned by respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation in the international seas and peaceful resolution of disputes. Their productive exchange of views on regional issues included a reiteration of their common vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, with clear support for ASEAN cohesion and centrality.

Read more: https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33540/3rd_IndiaAustraliaJapanUSA_Quad_Ministerial_Meeting

India inks new agreement with Australia on Space Collaboration

India signed a new agreement with Australia on Wednesday and decided to expand on space collaboration as the sector continues to grow and create jobs. The amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Space Agency and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), builds on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and India announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year. India’s partnership with Australia on the subject of space is underpinned by a formal Memorandum of Understanding signed between the

“Congratulate FM Marise Payne and the Government & people of Australia on Australia Day. Democratic values, cricket, National Days - how much we share!”
- Dr. S. Jaishankar
two countries in 2012. According to Australia’s Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Karen Andrews, “Discussions are already underway for Australia to host vital tracking infrastructure as part of India’s Gaganyaan missions, which will place India as the fourth country to put humans in space.” ISRO has embarked on an ambitious plan to put an Indian in space by 2022 under Gaganyaan Mission and the Morrison Government is investing more than $700 million to triple the size of Australia’s space sector by 2030 to $12 billion and create another 20,000 jobs.


CIM launches Australia Economic Strategy report of CII

On the occasion of launching the Australia Economic Strategy Report - “Enhancing India Australia Bilateral Economic and Trade Relationship” - Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal has said India’s opening of engagement and activities with Australia is a great morale booster for the entire world. Mr. Goyal stated that the comprehensive report will expand the Australia-India relationship further. Apart from traditional sectors such as mining and resources, India has made significant forays into new areas such as gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, auto and spare parts, healthcare, agribusiness etc., which have great potential to expand this partnership, he added.


Covid-19: How India became the fastest country to vaccinate over 7 million people

India has become the fastest country in the world to achieve more than 7 million vaccinations against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), taking only 26 days to accomplish this feat. The ministry of health and family welfare announced the significant achievement, saying it took 27 and 48 days respectively for the United States and the United Kingdom to reach the same figures. The nationwide COVID-19 vaccination has crossed 2.40 crores coverage, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 9 March 2021. In early January, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved Covishield, the Covid-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford, and manufactured by Pune-based Serum Institute of India. It also granted emergency authorisation to Covaxin, a vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech, for its use under certain circumstances as the vaccine is still undergoing Phase 3 trial.

Read more: https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/how-india-became-the-fastest-country-to-vaccinate-7-million-people-10161305426885.html

PM Modi launches world’s biggest vaccination drive

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi virtually launched the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive. This is the world’s largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3006 session sites across all States and UTs were virtually connected during the launch. The Prime Minister complimented the scientists who were associated with the development of vaccines. He said, usually it takes years to prepare a vaccine but here, in such a short time,
not one but two made-in-India vaccine were launched. The Prime Minister cautioned the people to be careful about not missing taking two doses. Recalling the initial days of the crisis, the Prime Minister noted that India showed alertness and took right decisions at the right moments. The Prime Minister congratulated the country for a united and brave fight against corona. He termed the Indian response to corona as one of self-confidence and self-reliance. He dwelled at length on the contribution of doctors, nurses, para medical staff, ambulance drivers, ASHA workers, sanitation workers, police and other frontline workers who endangered their lives to save other. India had started proper surveillance exactly one year ago from today. On 17th January 2020, India issued its first advisory and India was among the first nations to start screening of passengers at the airports.

Read more: [https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1689021](https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1689021)

**Atmanirbhar Bharat: HFCL supplies 1 lakh indigenous Wi-Fi systems**

100,000 Wi-Fi systems indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured by HFCL Limited, (previously known as Himachal Futuristic Communications) were delivered in record time. The company acknowledges that Wi-Fi Access Network Interface or WANI together with the enthusiastic BharatNet initiative of the Centre would increase broadband availability in rural India. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched Atmanirbhar Bharat or India’s self-reliant drive in May 2020 to empower the domestic industry to reduce import dependency following the contagious shutdown caused by Covid-19.


**UN chief voices appreciation for India's leadership in fight against COVID-19, vaccine assistance**

UN chief Antonio Guterres has voiced appreciation for India's leadership in the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic and its efforts to bring a much-needed supply of the COVID-19 vaccines to the world market. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted that Guterres, in a letter dated February 17, extends his personal gratitude to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for India's offer of 200,000 doses' of COVID-19 vaccines for UN peacekeepers. The Secretary-General says India has been a global leader in pandemic response efforts, Tirumurti tweeted, expressing his gratitude to the UN Chief. In an excerpt of the letter tweeted by Tirumurti, Guterres says, Indeed, India has been a global leader in pandemic response efforts having provided critical medicines, diagnostic kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment to more than 150 countries.


**PM Modi inaugurates India's first-ever driverless train operations**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India’s first driverless train operations on the Delhi Metro’s Magenta Line, connecting Janakpuri West and Botanical Garden along with the fully operational National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) services on the Airport Express Line. Speaking at the event, PM Modi said the inauguration of the first driverless metro train...
shows how fast the country is moving towards smart systems.


Oxford names 'Aatmanirbharta' as Hindi Word of 2020 after PM Modi's Aatmanirbhar Bharat push

After PM Modi's emphasis on Aatmanirbharta in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, this word has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi Word of the Year 2020 as it "validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic".

Read more: https://www.indiatoday.in/trending-news/story/oxford-takes-a-cue-from-pm-modi-s-aatmanirbhar-bharat-push-includes-aatmanirbharta-as-a-word-1765092-2021-02-02

EV mogul Tesla to open their first manufacturing plant and office in Bengaluru

Further to a recent announcement by Union Minister Shree Nitin Gadkari regarding Tesla’s arrival to India, the entity has registered to open its first office and R&D centre in Bengaluru. Tesla is expected to first commence sales operations before eventually branching out into the manufacturing and assembly of cars.

'Atmanirbhar' Amazon announces first device manufacturing line in India

E-commerce giant Amazon has announced its plans to begin manufacturing devices in India. This is the first Amazon manufacturing line in India and reiterates the firm’s commitment to the government’s “Make in India” for Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Amazon will commence manufacturing with contract manufacturer Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, in Chennai, and start production later this year. The programme will churn out hundreds of thousands of Fire TV Stick devices every year. Amazon will evaluate scaling capacity to additional marketplaces and cities, depending on the domestic demand. “Amazon is

“India sincere to emerge as leading blue economy of world.”

- PM MODI
committed to partner the government to advance the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat,” said Amit Agarwal, global senior vice-president and country leader for Amazon India.


World's largest floating solar project to start in MP by 2023

The world's largest floating 600 MW solar energy project to be constructed at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh will begin power generation by year 2022-23. The estimated investment in this project stands at Rs 3,000 crore. The International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Power Grid have granted in-principle consent for providing aid for the said project development.


Indian economy heading towards V-shaped recovery in 2021: Assocham

India's economy is showing decisive signs of a 'V-shaped' recovery in 2021 with the return of consumer confidence, robust financial markets, an uptick in manufacturing and exporters braving it out in the global market with never-say-die spirit, according to Assocham. The industry chamber said it expects immense accruals of economic benefits from the COVID-19 vaccination programme about to be rolled out. According to Assocham, the most definitive of the data is the record collection of ₹1.15 lakh crore in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) during December.


India emerges as Asia's biggest destination for fintech deals

India has emerged as Asia’s biggest destination for financial technology (fintech) deals, in the quarter ended June 2020, a research by RBSA Advisors said. With around 33 deals valued at USD 647.5 million, India has the highest investment in the fintech segment during the quarter ended June 30, 2020.


India adds 40 billionaires to Hurun Global rich list

India added 40 new billionaires last year, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2021 published on 2 March 2021. The country has a total of 177 billionaires and there are an additional 32 Indian-origin billionaires across the world. The list is published by the Hurun Report Inc, a research platform based in Shanghai and Mumbai, which claims to be the world's largest 'rich list' provider.

Read more: https://theprint.in/india/india-adds-40-billionaires-to-hurun-global-rich-list-mukesh-ambani-among-worlds-top-10/614609/
35th Arunachal Pradesh Divas

The state of Rising Sun Arunachal Pradesh celebrated its 35th Statehood day on February 23, 2021. The main state function was held at IG Park in Itanagar. While addressing the occasion the CM Prema Khandu said that Arunachal Pradesh has more potential than challenges and further expressed that development comes without affecting or disturbing the indigenous people. On the occasion Governor Brig. (Retd) Dr. BD Mishra flagged off 20 emergency ambulances along with various other development initiatives.

Khelo India National Winter Games Concluded in Gulmarg

The second edition of Khelo India Winter Games saw a grand launch in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir as Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the sports meet virtually. Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Kiren Rijiju was present during the ceremony at Golf Club, Gulmarg along with Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, J&K, and a host of other dignitaries. The annual event, which made its debut last year in Ladakh and J&K, is organized by the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of J&K under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The sports meet concluded on March 2, 2021.

An Exclusive cultural experience for Diplomatic Core, New Delhi by ICCR

Going out for a social gathering after almost a year is an occasion many have been awaiting. So, for diplomats, artistes and socialites, a cultural evening hosted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was naturally a reason to celebrate. While some chose their favorite outfits to take good pictures for the gram, some could not contain their excitement as they tried matching steps with folk dancers at the event. A special cultural performance were planned for diplomatic core in India to give them a glimpse of diverse Indian culture at one place. “Culture has been the mainstay of India’s relationship with other nations. We share strong cultural relationships with several countries. Due to COVID-19, there have been challenges, but we are attempting to do new things and we are looking forward to further strengthen our cultural ties,” said Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR.
16 countries celebrate the Indian culture with Vishwarang this year

A three day Vishwarang International Festival was concluded in various parts of the globe. The core objective of this mega virtual festival was to create awareness about Hindi and regional languages of India. Apart from India, the other countries who became a part of the festival were UAE, America, Australia, Canada, Netherland, Singapore, Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Ukraine, Sweden, Kazakhstan, and Bulgaria.


DU to establish ICCR centre for international students

To cater to the needs of international students, the University of Delhi (DU) will soon set up a special centre in partnership with the Indian Council for Cultural Research (ICCR) under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The ICCR brings in international students to India on scholarships from around 120 countries.


Khajuraho Dance Festival 20 to 26 February 2021

The Khajuraho Dance Festival is organized every year at the world famous tourist destination Khajuraho through the Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy, Madhya Pradesh Culture Council, Bhopal, by the Department of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh. It is the highest ceremony in the country focused on Indian classical dance styles, which is well-known at the national and international level. In this ceremony, eminent artists of the country and the world performed their dance performances.

Read more: http://khajurahodancefestival.com/about-festival.php

Kelkar Museum mulls thematic exhibitions abroad

The Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum is exploring the possibility of holding thematic exhibitions of artefacts abroad through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Delhi. Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, president, ICCR, Delhi, visited the museum and evinced interest in collaborating with the museum to showcase some of artefacts in various museums and shows across the world.

On the occasion of Republic Day of India, Hon’ble Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Scott Morrison extended his greetings to India diaspora in Australia.

The Premier of New South Wales Hon’ble Gladys Bereijklian wished Australian and India population for Republic Day of India and Australia Day.

Consulate General of India, Sydney celebrated 72nd Republic Day of India on January 26, 2021. On the occasion of 72nd Republic Day of India, CGI Sydney has organized various cultural performances highlighting diversity of Indian culture.

Celebrating the 72nd Republic Day of India, CGI Sydney held interactive sessions with cross section of Indian-Australian Community.
Congratulations Team India. A proud and historic moment for Indian cricket!! A wonderful test series with a spectacular win.

Memorabilia presented by Team India to CGI Sydney.

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Consulate General of India Sydney organized Essay competition to celebrate Vishwa Hindi Divas. Here are the winners for the essay competition.

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Consulate General of India Sydney organised a virtual Round Table conference to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Vishwa Hindi Divas 2021.

Consulate General of India, Sydney paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs Day at Jubilee Park, Parramatta and campus of UNSW, Sydney.

CGI, Sydney in collaboration with AIBC organised a briefing session on Indian Budget-2021 and opportunities for Australia in India’s growth story. Eminent panelists from KPMG India, GrantThornton Australia and Stone & Chalk delved into nuances of budgetary provisions.
CGI Sydney in collaboration with AIBC celebrated International Women’s Day 2021. Eminent representatives from academia, business, sports & government shared their insights focusing on business opportunities between India and Australia.

An interactive discussion was held on “Empowered Women – Inspiring Change” on the occasion of International Women’s Day at SVCC CGI Sydney where distinguished panelists from diverse walks of life shared their perspectives.

Pongal Celebration by Tamil Arts and Culture Association (TACA) Sydney. This Pongal celebrations also marks the beginning of 10th year of Tamil Arts and Culture Association Inc. in Sydney.

New Consular Service: Renew your IDP at Consulate

Indian nationals can now get their International Driving Permit (IDP) renewed at Consulate General of India, Sydney from February 15, 2021 onwards.

MEA launches Global Pravasi Rishta portal and app to connect with 3.12 crore strong diaspora

The External Affairs Ministry of India launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal and app to connect with the nearly 3.12-crore strong Indian diaspora across the world. Speaking at the launch of the portal and app, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said it aims to create a three-way communication between the Ministry, Indian missions, and the diaspora. The Minister also informed that the app will be used by the Indian nationals and diaspora, while the portal will be used by the Indian missions.

Read more: https://www.vfsglobal.com/india/australia/consular_miscellaneous/index.html
Arrival of first High Commissioner of India

Published at Daily Telegraph

30 January 1941

Arrival of first Trade Commissioner of India

Published at Daily Telegraph

30 January 1941