

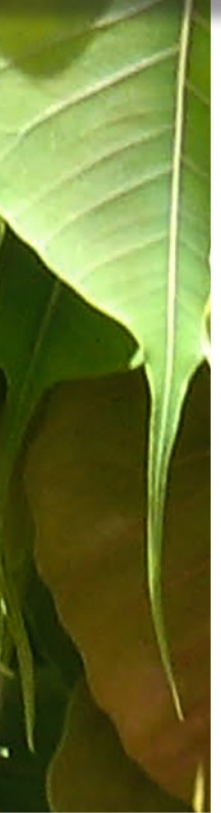


सत्यमेव जयते

SANDESH

Newsletter of the High Commission of India, Colombo

MARCH - MAY 2018



SANDESH

FEBRUARY - MAY 2018



सत्यमेव जयते

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The information and articles are collected from different sources and do not necessarily reflect the views of the High Commission

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The Sacred Relics of Sarnath are yet another manifestation of the shared Buddhist heritage of India and Sri Lanka, which forms a spiritual bond between our two nations. These Relics are enshrined at Mulagandhakuti Vihara at Saranath in India. The second Relic enshrined at Sarnath was found in 1929 in a large Stupa at Nagarjunakonda in the Guntur District of the then Madras Presidency. The Stupa in which the Relic was found is described as the Maha Chetiya or viz. the 'Great Stupa' of the Blessed One.

Cover



Ven. Pelewatte Seewali Thera, General Secretary of the Maha Bodhi Society of India and High Commissioner of India, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu carrying the historic relics from the Air India aircraft.

H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena and Hon'ble Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe paid respects to the sacred Buddha relic.

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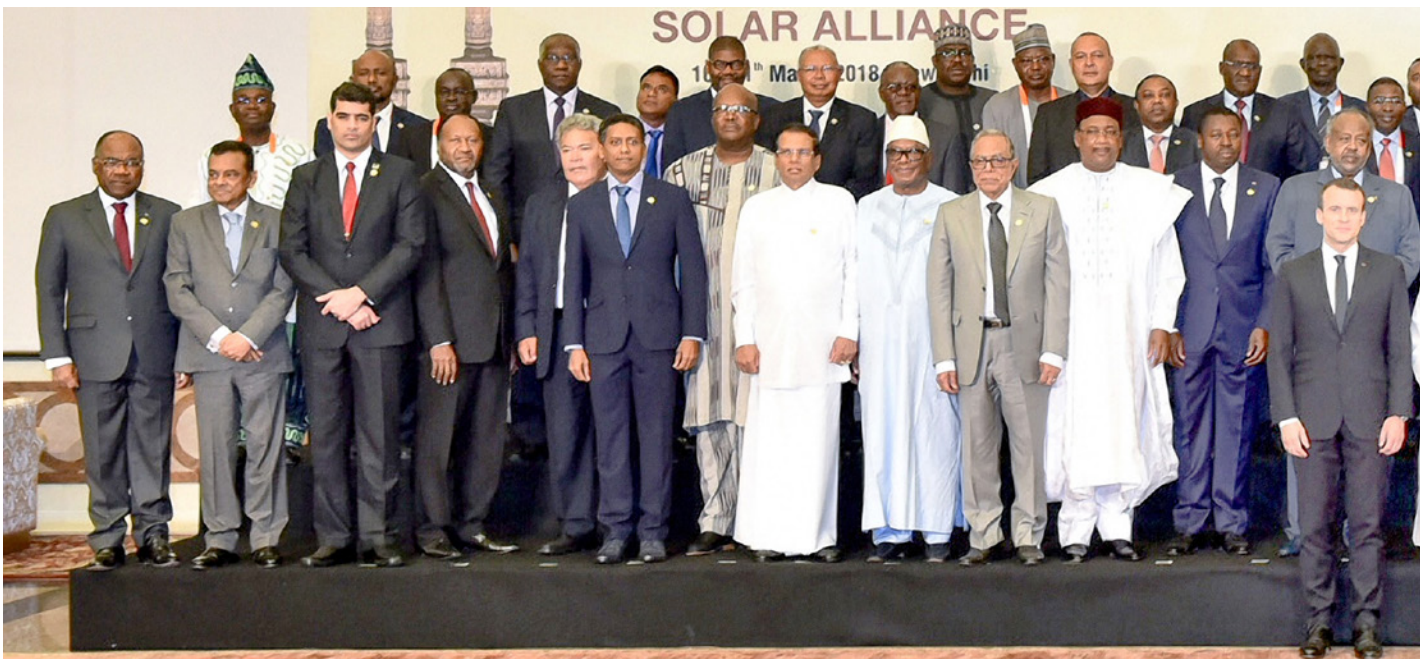


PRESIDENT MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA ATTENDS THE FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE IN NEW DELHI

March 12, 2018



At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and the President of France Emmanuel Macron, President, Maithripala Sirisena was in New Delhi, on a two day visit to participate at the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance, which was held on March 11, 2018.





Addressing the Plenary Session of the Founding Conference on March 11, 2018 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Maithripala Sirisena expressed confidence that the International Solar Alliance (ISA) would showcase the desire of its member countries to bring about solutions to create a greener, cleaner and a healthy environment for the people globally. He further noted that the deliberations of the Conference will navigate the joint efforts of the countries in the Alliance towards practical cooperation and expressed the hope that the rest of the global community will join the Alliance.

He highlighted several initiatives taken by Sri Lanka such as a national commitment to reduce 4 per cent of greenhouse gases without any conditions and 16 per cent of greenhouse gases by 2030, development of an ambitious target to establish the use of 100 per

cent renewable power by 2050. The programme "Suriya Bala Sangramaya", (a Battle of Solar Power) aims to produce 1000 Mega Watt by 2025 targeting low income families and the development of 1 Mega Watt to 10 Mega Watt capacity solar power plants to assist Small and Medium Level entrepreneurs.

President Sirisena met with the Indian President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 10th March. Welcoming the Sri Lankan President, President Kovind said that President Sirisena has played a stellar role in Sri Lanka's active re-engagement with the world and his leadership has been reassuring for India and the region and beyond. Commending the environment-friendly measures initiated by Sri Lanka, he appreciated the Sri Lankan President's vision on ensuring economic development with environmental sustainability and praised Sri Lanka's 'Surya Bala Sangramaya' initiative





in the solar energy sector. He further said, India and Sri Lanka must promote greater progress in trade, commerce, connectivity and development cooperation. India shares Sri Lanka's emphasis on areas such as power, renewable energy, ocean resources, organic agricultural practices, port and airport facilities, he added. At the meeting President of Sri Lanka invited President Kovind to visit Sri Lanka at a mutually convenient date.

President Sirisena also held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. President Sirisena thanked the Indian Government for extending a Line of Credit of US\$ 100 million for major solar power expansion projects. US\$ 50 million will be allocated for roof top solar power projects for low income families, while the second, US\$ 50 million is for the establishment of roof top solar power projects in hospitals, schools, technical colleges and other government establishments to promote solar power in the country.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Modi recalled that during the past few years the relations between the two countries was further strengthened and it is important that the future relations focus on economic relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi stated that he appreciated the long term vision of President Sirisena. The two leaders discussed the Progress of the on going economic projects.

On the sidelines of the Conference on March 11, 2018, the President also met with Erik Solheim who was one-time Norway's Minister of International Development, and acted as the main facilitator of the peace process in Sri Lanka, who is presently the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. During this meeting, issues relating to the environmental conservation, weather and climate change and marine pollution were discussed. The President apprised Minister Solheim regarding the specially designed programmes and steps that have been implemented to control the use of plastic and explained that this has negatively impacted on the coastal marine belt in Sri Lanka and also on the excavation of soil for construction activities, which was also an issue. He invited Mr. Solheim to introduce technological alternatives and proposals to mitigate this situation in Sri Lanka.

The International Solar Alliance initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in

Paris on November 30, 2015 by the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande. 121 countries between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn qualify to be members of the International Solar Alliance. The Founding Conference in New Delhi was attended by over 23 Heads of State and Heads of Government from countries who have signed and ratified the Agreement together with more than 500 participants dignitaries from the United Nations, Multilateral Development Banks, global funds / financial institutions, energy-related institutions, corporate sector, and civil society. The main objective of the International Solar Alliance is to enable better harnessing of solar energy as an alternative energy source, and to address the specific solar technology deployment needs, of solar resource rich countries.

The Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation, Nimal Siripala De Silva, Secretary Foreign Affairs, Prasad Kariyawasam, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India, Chitranganee Wagiswara and Senior Officials of the High Commission attended the meetings with the President during the visit.



lunch hosted by the Prime Minister on 11 March for the delegates. The ISA Founding Conference brought together delegations from 46 countries all over the globe including Heads of State and Government from 21 countries. Several UN representatives, leaders of Multilateral Development Banks, business leaders in renewable energy, members of civil society and think tanks also attended the Conference. Delhi Solar agenda was released at the Conference.

Solar projects worth nearly US\$ 1.4 billion in 15 countries were announced at the Conference under Government of India concessional financing. An Indian Line of Credit for US\$ 100 million was announced for undertaking solar projects in Sri Lanka, which includes development of 200,000 rooftop solar units for low income families (for US\$ 50 million) and setting up of rooftop solar in Government schools and colleges, hospitals and other Government establishments in Sri Lanka (for US\$ 50 million).

ISA has been described by Prime Minister of India as the single most important global achievement after the Paris Accord on Climate Change. The first General Assembly of the ISA is expected to be held on the sidelines of the second edition of the Renewable Energy Global Investors Meet and Expo, in short REINVEST to be organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India in April 2018.

India has offered to meet ISA Secretariat expenses for initial five years. The Government of India has allotted five acres of land to ISA, a nice campus in Gurugram, Haryana and released a sum of US\$ 20 million for creating a corpus fund, building infrastructure and meeting day to day recurring expenditure.

President Maithripala Sirisena attended the launch of ISA at the COP-21 in Paris on November 30, 2015. The ISA was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi & the then President of France Francois Hollande.



The ISA is conceived as a coalition of 121 solar resource rich countries (lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) to address their energy needs, through a common platform for collaboration, for achieving speed, scale and skills for deploying available solar technologies; facilitating strategic and collaborative solar R&D; and lowering the cost of finance for solar projects and capacity building.

62 Countries have joined ISA so far, out of which 32 countries have signed and ratified ISA Framework Agreement. Sri Lanka became a full-fledged member of ISA on February 12, 2018.



India announces US\$ 100 million concessional financing for solar projects in Sri Lanka during the visit of President Sirisena

March 12, 2018

President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena visited New Delhi from 10-11 March 2018 to attend the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance. The Founding Conference was co-chaired by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President of France Emmanuel Macron. President Sirisena called on President of India Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Conference. He also attended the Presidential banquet hosted in Rashtrapati Bhawan on 10 March and

All women crew took Air India flight to Sri Lanka on International Women's Day

March 08, 2018



To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, Air India, the iconic airline of India operated an ALL WOMEN CREW flight to Sri Lanka on March 08, 2018 from Chennai to Colombo and then from Colombo to New Delhi. The flight was piloted by Capt V Roopa and Capt Nimisha Goel and accompanied by cabin crew Ria, Zena, Ritika, Tianaro and Haritha. Mr L Ramesh Babu and Ms Neha Singh from The High Commission of India welcomed the crew members at a ceremony held at Colombo Airport. They appreciated the initiative of Air India. This is a unique gesture in South Asia involving Sri Lanka.

Air India at Sri Lanka represented by women, in all key positions - Mrs Alice Joe Paul, Country Manager for Sri Lanka, Mrs Madhumita Gupta, Airport Manager and Mrs Thanuja Lankathilaka, the GM of Indusky Aviation, the Passenger GSA for Air India at Sri Lanka.

Key achievements of Air India :

- Operated the first round-the-world trip entirely staffed by women in 2017. The aircraft B 777 flew from Delhi to San Francisco on the Pacific route and then San Francisco to Delhi on the Atlantic route.
- In 1990 Ms. Nivedita Bhashan became the youngest women pilot in the world of civil aviation history to command a commercial Jet Aircraft at the age of 26.



- Capt Durba Banerjee , the first Indian Woman , Commercial pilot also flew for the National carrier from way back in 1956. We also had Capt Saudamini DeshnuKh the Lady Pilot and Commander of Boeing and Airbus Fleet flying for Air India.

India Partners with Sri Lanka at Medicare 2018

March 03, 2018 (<http://ficci.in>)

"India-Sri Lanka cooperation in health sector has strengthened in recent years. Let us continue to work together to better and healthier societies", Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka said while speaking at the opening ceremony of Medicare Show which began on March 2, 2018 in Colombo. The Exhibition Show ran from March 02 to 04, 2018.

In his keynote address, the High Commissioner of India emphasized over the growing number of initiatives in the recent period which have strengthened the bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

"We have recently agreed on the modalities to operationalize the 1990



Emergency Ambulance Services in Sri Lanka under an Indian grant, fulfilling a commitment made by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his landmark visit to Sri Lanka last year. You would also recall the inauguration of a new District Base Hospital in Dickoya, built under Indian grant. We have also gifted the construction of a hospital in Vavuniya; and provided medical equipment to hospitals in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu. The South Asian Satellite, which India launched in May, will also provide services in tele-medicine, and tele-education. These are important milestones in our bilateral relations".

On the domestic front, Mr. Singh highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India in terms of the vast network of Primary Health Care Centers, health care programmes such as Ayushman Bharat and provision of affordable and quality healthcare services which has kept the momentum running in the country. He also made a special reference to the private sector contributions in transforming the healthcare landscape of the country. "The private sector also has been equally successful in providing quality healthcare at some of the most affordable prices in the world", he said.

India's contributions to the world and to Sri Lanka were also reiterated by Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine, Government of Sri Lanka and Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva, Chairman of Medicare 2018. While Dr. Senaratne emphasized on India being one of the ne of the largest supplier of medicines and pharma products to the world, Dr. De Silva Stressing over the fact that approximately 60-70 percent of Sri Lanka's pharma requirements are met by India. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne in her address, invited India to help develop Sri Lanka's traditional medicine sector



in which the country specialises heavily.

Medicare is the national healthcare exhibition of Sri Lanka with the 9th edition in running. The Chairman of Medicare 2018, Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva, Deputy Director, General Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Government of Sri Lanka, in his welcome address informed that the Show comprises of four main segments namely Healthcare Expo for local healthcare providers from the government and private sectors, Medical Tourism Expo for International Hospitals to promote their services among the Sri Lankans, Ayurvedic Expo for both Local & International Companies and the Medical Equipment, Lab & Pharmaceutical Expo for India and international companies to meet local agents, suppliers and relevant Government authorities to set up their businesses in Sri Lanka.

FICCI, the apex industry chamber of India, in partnership with Government of India is organizing an 'India Pavilion' at the Medicare Show. Over 50 Indian companies specializing in healthcare services, medical tourism, pharmaceutical & medical equipment devices and suppliers are participating in the Show. Moreover, business to business interactions between the industry are also being organised during the Show.

Mr. Jithu Jose, Senior Committee Member of FICCI and Director Apollo (South Asia and Middle East) in his address mentioned over the growing nature of bilateral economic engagements between India and Sri Lanka in the healthcare sphere, particularly with the latter being globally known for its speciality in traditional medicinal practices and healthcare tourism. He also emphasized over FICCI's growing bilateral thought leadership initiatives being undertaken with Sri Lanka to promote trade and commerce. FICCI also holds the Co-Chair of India-Sri Lanka CEOs' Forum.

For two days, the Indian companies showcased state of the art technology in healthcare, providing an effective platform for all medical professionals to get access to latest and sophisticated innovations in the medical industry. Moreover, there were interactive discussions on healthcare pertaining to oncology, health lifestyle, lab technologies, multi-speciality etc. and knowledge sharing programs parallelly with the exhibition. A technical session on registration procedures in Sri Lanka were also held for the Indian industry in partnership with National Medicines Regulatory Authority.

The healthcare industry of India, valued at over US\$ 150 billion is one of the largest growing in the economy - both in terms of revenue and employment generation. Comprising of hospital services, medical devices, clinical trials, outsourcing, telemedicine, medical tourism, health insurance and medical equipment, the industry is slowly

and steadily expanding its coverage and outreach. As per official figures from Government of India, the healthcare industry of India is expected to reach nearly US\$ 280 billion by 2020 due to growing demand for specialised and quality services. India is also the second most attractive medical tourism destination in the world.

At the same time, Sri Lanka's health indicators are comparable to some of the most developed countries in the world. Sri Lanka specializes in offering low cost healthcare services of global standards.

FICCI in association with Government of India, High Commission of India in Sri Lanka and its MoU partner - Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka, is leading the participation of Indian industry in the Medicare Show to strengthen the bilateral engagement between the two sides in this field and create a strong regional brand proposition in healthcare.





High Commissioner of India delivers key-note address at KDU

March 16, 2018

General Sir John Kotlawala Defence University (KDU) held its inauguration ceremony of Master's Degree programme for the year 2018 on March 16, 2018. High Commissioner of India H.E. Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu was the Chief Guest at the function. He delivered a key-note address on "India-Sri Lanka Relations for a Shared and Secured Future". He noted that India-Sri Lanka relations are special, unique and stand on its own footing.

High Commissioner recalled that Sir Kotlawala was one of the most illustrious and brave sons of Sri Lanka. He noted that it is no coincidence that the motto of KDU is 'For the Motherland and Forever'. High Commissioner cited the quote that the quality of a university is not measured by the kinds of students it takes in, but the quality of students it turns out. He complimented KDU for living up to the expectations of

the countrymen.

High Commissioner highlighted importance of higher education and research in the growth of a country. He mentioned that India currently has the third-largest scientific and technical manpower in the world. India has also become the second largest market for e-learning with more than one-third of the top 1,000 global R&D spenders having their centres in India. Citing the 750 scholarships and 400 ITEC fellowships that India gives to Sri Lanka every year, High Commissioner said that India, as a country, has never believed in keeping its resources to itself. Even while having to confront with its own developmental challenges, India has always believed in sharing what we have.

High Commissioner reiterated that whether it be the rehabilitation of

KKS Harbour, or setting up of model villages across the country, or helping the farming and fishing communities in the South or extension of emergency ambulance service island-wide, India is proud of the fact that she has been able to write the development partnership stories in Sri Lanka, based on Sri Lanka's own priorities & requirements. This is important considering the strong democratic credentials of both India & Sri Lanka.







Sharing the skills for building a better future: High Commission of India celebrates ITEC Day and the International Students' Day'

March 23, 2018

High Commission of India, Colombo organized joint celebration of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Day (ITEC Day) and International Students' Day on March 22, 2018 at Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo. Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation, Government of Sri Lanka, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka H.E. Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu was the Guest of Honor. Around 270 Sri Lankan alumni who pursued various courses in India, under ITEC scheme and



Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship scheme of the Government of India, attended the celebration. Several senior officials of Government of Sri Lanka were also present.

Every year, Government of India offers 750 scholarships to Sri Lankan students, for various Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral courses. India also provides around 400 fully-funded short term training opportunities to Sri Lanka under ITEC Programme every year. These are aimed at strengthening the skill-sets and capacity building in Sri Lanka.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva commended India's achievements in the field of technology & research. He thanked the Government of India for the valuable development partnership, spread over a multitude of sectors in Sri Lanka. He described the ties between India and Sri Lanka as millennia-old friendship, and also noted the strong people-to-people ties based on shared culture and heritage. He also recalled the contributions made by Indian Civil services to meeting the developmental aspirations of its people, and suggested that there could be greater collaboration between the various training institutions in both countries.

High Commissioner of India Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu noted that the ITEC day and International Students Day reflect India's belief that knowledge and prosperity only increase through sharing. He also noted that India's experience may be of direct relevance to Sri Lanka. He recalled that last year, for the first time, the entrance examination for admission to the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technologies was held in Colombo. He added that Sri Lankan students can now also participate in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test to pursue medical education in India.

For more details on the scholarship programmes and other educational assistance, please visit the High Commission of India's website www.hcicolombo.org.





CSE & National Stock Exchange of India sign MoU to advance collaboration

April 03, 2018

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on exploring opportunities to work together and co-operate with each other to foster a deeper and more strategic relationship. The MoU was signed at the CSE today by CSE Chairman Mr. Ray Abeywardena and Mr. Vikram Limaye, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, NSE.

The MoU calls for cooperation on the exchange of information and expertise and also paves the way for NSE to play a consultative role in a number of strategic initiatives implemented by the CSE, including in the area of new product development and exchange operations.

Commenting on the MoU, CSE Chairman Mr. Ray Abeywardena said "The move formalizes and paves the way to strengthen what is already a

strong relationship of collaboration between the CSE and NSE. The new avenues for cooperation created as a result of this MoU will add value to the Sri Lankan capital market. NSE is a leading stock exchange in the region and is in prime position to offer valuable perspective and guidance to the CSE, as we pursue growth initiatives to further develop the exchange and build on our strengths."

Mr. Vikram Limaye, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, NSE commenting on the MoU said, "NSE has built world class market infrastructure solutions across asset classes that could service requirements of the entire spectrum of investors from retail to institutional to traders. India is one of the fastest growing markets in terms investor participation and volumes. Market eco-systems in South Asia have significant commonalities and collaboration between NSE and

CSE could leverage NSE's experience in building robust markets to provide further impetus to the growth of Sri Lankan capital markets. NSE and CSE have collaborated over the years and I am confident that this MoU will take the relationship to the next level and would benefit capital markets in both the countries."

NSE is the leading stock exchange in India and the third largest in the world by nos. of trades in equity shares in 2017 (World Federation of Exchanges report). NSE has developed the NIFTY 50 index which is a leading benchmark for the Indian capital markets. It also owns and manages the NIFTY 50 index. It offers comprehensive coverage of the Indian capital markets across asset classes, including equity, fixed income and derivative securities. Currently there are ~1850 companies listed on NSE with market cap of US\$ 2.2 trillion+. NSE has a fully-integrated business model comprising exchange listings, trading services, clearing and settlement services, indices, market data feeds, technology solutions, and financial education offerings.

CSE is the nucleus of Sri Lanka's capital market as the licensed operator of the stock market. CSE is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 1985. CSE acts as a conduit of both equity and debt capital and provides the necessary market infrastructure to buyers and sellers in order to transact.



INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER DELIVERS SUJATA JAYAWARDENA MEMORIAL ORATION

April 03, 2018

Indian High Commissioner Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu delivered the prestigious 14th Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration on 3 April at the BMICH before a packed audience. The topic of the address was: 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas: Together We Progress - India-Sri Lanka Relations in the light of India's Neighbourhood First Policy'.

High Commissioner Sandhu was escorted in a ceremonial procession to the hall. Many dignitaries, including University of Colombo Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, University of Colombo Alumni Association President Rajeev Amarasuriya, Senior Professor Nayani Melagoda, former Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne, and Deshamanaya Tissa Devendra graced the occasion. The oration is an annual event organised by the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo. The Alumni Association of the University of Colombo presented High Commissioner Sandhu with the Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Plaque.



High Commissioner of India at the 14th Annual Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration



‘Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas: Together we progress’
India-Sri Lanka relations
in the light of India’s
Neighbourhood
First Policy

April 03, 2018

Vice Chancellor, University
of Colombo, Prof. Lakshman
Dissanayake,

President of Alumni Association, Mr.
Rajeev Amarasuriya,

Faculty members of University of
Colombo,

Committee members of Alumni
Association,

Dear students,

Distinguished Guests..

I am delighted to be here this evening,
to deliver the 14th Annual Sujata
Jayawardena Memorial Oration. It
is a privilege to speak at an event in
memory of Mrs. Jayawardena, who
contributed immensely not just to
the University of Colombo, but also in
empowering women and promotion of
culture of this great country.

Let me also take this opportunity to
thank the Alumni Association of the
University of Colombo for giving me
this opportunity to speak on a topic
that I am passionate about, India-
Sri Lanka relations. This evening,

I will focus on this in the light of
India’s Neighbourhood First policy.
SabkasathSabkavikas: Together we
progress, sums up in one line the very
essence of our Neighbourhood first
policy.

I would like to emphasize here the
importance we attach to progressing
together, as self-interest alone is neither
in our culture nor in our behaviour.

Why is neighbourhood important?





Neighbourhood is crucial to us not just because we share physical borders. Neighbourhood is significant because we are joined by blood. We, in South Asia, are connected by common historical and cultural heritage. Our commonalities are as extensive and run deep. We are not just near to each other; we are close to each other.

Action speaks louder than words. Just to give you an example, during the recent finals of the Nidahas Trophy, our cricket team was amazed and deeply grateful for the support extended by Sri Lankan fans - they felt like they were playing at home. The crowd support was crucial for Indian team's victory. As a mark of gratitude, the Indian team made the lap with Sri Lankan flag in hand. I was there in the stadium; it was a very emotional moment. This sense of being at home, whether for an Indian here or a Sri Lankan in India, is rooted in the deep understanding and respect that we have for each other. I have had the opportunity to serve in Sri Lanka more than 15 years ago, and I have seen first-hand these special bonds grow.

Before, I get into India-Sri Lanka relations, it is important for us to recall the idiom, know thy neighbour. We have millennia old ties; however, we need to also appreciate how our countries have evolved over time.

India of today, is very different from yesteryears. There is a lot happening out there.

How many of you know that India launched 107 satellites into space last year, in one go, the highest ever by any country. India's Mars Mission, Mangalyan, costs 10 times less than the same mission undertaken by other countries. 2017 was in fact the last year India used foreign launch vehicles to send its satellites into space. Hereafter, it will all be indigenous.

More than one-third of the top 1,000 global R&D spenders have centres in India. In 2016, India overtook the US in terms of internet users. India's internet user base is now the second largest in the world. In India, there are about 1 billion mobile users today. In mobile data consumption, today, India is in the first position, ahead of US and China put together.

India will soon become the second largest market for robotic surgery in the world. The world's largest solar park for around 2000 MW is coming up in Karnataka. India is world's youngest country, with 64% of its population in the working age group. The tech start-ups in Bengaluru and Hyderabad have changed the face of modern India.

India's MyGov application

crowdsources governance ideas from citizens. Indian leaders are extensively using modern social media tools to connect with people. Technology-enabled governance has indeed come a long way in India. India also has currently the largest, financial inclusion programme in the world.

Aadhaar, the unique identification system, has become the largest and most successful IT project ever undertaken in the world, with 1.1 billion people having a digital proof of identity.

India is also perhaps world's most complex pluralistic society, home to a vast variety of castes, tribes, communities, religions, languages, customs and living styles. There are nearly 4,600 separate communities in India with as many as 1650 languages. We look different, have different food, dress differently, speak different languages, have different beliefs, yet we are one. We believe pluralism calls for celebration. It is our institutions and people which have made India strong and one. As responsible democracies, like Sri Lanka, India also does not believe in sacrificing civil liberties for achieving development.

I am aware that Sri Lanka, too, has changed a lot. The youth of this country is looking to the future with optimism and hope, rather than be weighed down by problems of the past. After decades of violence, Sri Lanka is reaping the benefits of peace. The country has made enormous strides in promoting human development indications, and we in India can learn much from you in this area. And Sri Lanka is deepening its international integration, in the neighbourhood and beyond. Sri Lanka is looking to live upto its name of 'Suvarna Lanka'.

It is against this background that I would like to speak about relations between our two countries and how I see them develop in the future. If you look at the evolution of India's foreign

policy, there are things which have moved with the times. At the same time, there are things which have remained constant, ever since we became independent. But one thing stands out in all this – the importance that India attaches to its relations with Sri Lanka.

I would like to describe India-Sri Lanka relations based on three Bs:

Friends, the first B: Broad

One of the basic tenets of India's foreign policy, which has remained constant ever since independence, is that we have never believed in setting conditionalities for friendship. Our heart is broad and big. We do not see friendships through transactional lens. There is no quid pro quo.

To give you an example, in May last year, India launched the South Asia satellite, which is a gift from India to all its neighbours to meet common developmental goals. Sri Lanka was the first SAARC country which agreed to be part of the satellite.

The other basic principle in our foreign policy, which has remained unchanged, is that we have always believed in sharing what we have. Even while struggling to meet our own developmental priorities, we have shared the fruits of our expertise, knowledge and skill set with our friends and partners. We firmly believe that our assistance should result in true capacity building so that the changes are sustainable.

Thus the second B: Blend

Government of India offers 750 scholarships annually to Sri Lankan students at various levels. In addition, India has been providing fully-funded short term training opportunities, under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme launched in 1964. This year, we have allotted around 400 slots under ITEC to Sri Lanka.

India has committed a total of around US\$ 2.9 billion in concessional financing to Sri Lanka, out of which US\$ 545 million is pure grant assistance. I want to emphasize one aspect: Our aid is not to raid or invade. Our assistance is based on Sri Lanka's own requirements. Our partnership blends with your priorities.

Now, the third and most important B, which forms the pillar of India-Sri Lanka relations is Lord Buddha.

With Sri Lanka, we feel that we have a spiritual bond treasured over centuries. Buddhism first came to Sri Lanka from India before it spread anywhere in the world. This was not just because of the proximity. It was because of the interconnectedness we felt for each other, even in those times.

DevanampriyaPriyadarshiAshoka of India and DevanampiyaTissa of Anuradhapura, both of whom played a prominent role in the introduction of Buddhism in their own lands, were great friends, though they had never met even once during their lifetime. You must remember that Ashoka sent his own worthy children, Mahinda and Sanghamitta to Sri Lanka to spread Buddhism while sending emissaries to other parts of the globe, including Gandhara, Greece, Myanmar, Egypt, and Thailand. Sri Lanka was special not just now, but even then.

It is interesting to note that Buddha while referring to himself, never used the words, 'I', 'me' or 'myself'. He preferred 'Tathagata': which means "one who has thus gone" (tathā-gata) or "one who has thus come" (tathā-āgata). We are owners of the legacy of that land that transformed Gautama to Buddha.

Buddhist symbols have become our national symbols. Lotus, which is venerated in Buddhism and Hinduism alike, is our national flower. The Asoka Chakra in India's national flag is inspired from the Buddhist Wheel of Dhamma. India's national emblem is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath. India is proud of its Buddhist identity.

Thus, the foundations of our bilateral relations have been strong. What is it that has changed in recent times? You will agree with me our approach has become more proactive and action-oriented. Our leaders have imparted a new energy to our ties. We have tried to overcome the 'hesitations of history', if I can use that term, in some cases. We have extended timely assistance in times of need, be it during floods, or drought. We have expanded our development cooperation in terms of range, quality and quantum of commitments as well as pace of implementation.





It is heartening to note that Sri Lankan leaders chose India as the destination for their first official travel abroad. Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sri Lanka in March 2015 was the first by an Indian Prime Minister after a gap of 28 years. Sri Lanka chose our Prime Minister as the Chief Guest at the UN Vesak Day celebrations, which she hosted for the first time. Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sri Lanka in May 2017, the second in two years, was unprecedented for an Indian Prime Minister.

There have been many firsts in recent past which we can be proud of. Sri Lanka recently joined the National Knowledge Network (NKN), being the first SAARC country to do so, through which the Sri Lankan Universities will now have digital access to around 1600 universities in India & beyond. During the visit of our IT Minister to Sri Lanka in January this year, we launched a pilot program on E-Office, developed by our National Informatics Centre, wherein an eGov documentation was digitally signed for the first time in Sri Lankan public sector.

Where do we go from here, and how do we sustain the dynamism of the last few years?

Sri Lanka needs to take advantage of the fact that it is not just near, but

also, close to the fastest growing major economy in the world, India. When Sri Lankan Airlines became the largest foreign carrier operating to India connecting 14 of our cities, it was just one example of realization of Sri Lanka's true potential. There are several Sri Lankan brands which have done well in India. We continue to be the largest source of tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is strong in services sector like India. With India enacting its biggest tax reform in history, one country one tax, its Goods & Services Tax, GST, Sri Lankan traders would find it easier to access the Indian market. This is all a drop in the ocean.

Greater connectivity and economic integration are our promise for a better tomorrow. When I say this, let there be no doubt in anyone's mind, we do not covet your markets, your assets or your land. We want to walk with you at a pace you are comfortable with. We seek a secure and prosperous future for Indian Ocean region that lives up to the name of SAGAR- Security and Growth for All in the Region.

The real ownership of India-Sri Lanka relations rests with the people in both the countries. The people have to decide whether to look at the past, survive in the present or work towards a common future. We hold the belief that success of one must propel the growth of many. As Prime Modi has said, you will find in India, my friends, a beacon of peace and progress, stability and success, and access and accommodation. India will be there for Sri Lanka whenever you need us.

As Lord Buddha has said, may all beings have happy minds.

May all of us be happy today and everyday. May the Triple Gem bless you all.

Thank you.



India supports livelihood development of 70,000 in Hambantota District

April 09, 2018

In a special ceremony held on April 09, 2018 at Nonagama Cultural Centre in Ambalantota in Hambantota District, Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, and H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India, jointly launched a project to provide livelihood support to nearly 70,000 people from the farming and fishing communities in Hambantota District.

Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Mr. Jagath P. Wijeweera, Chairman Ceylon Fisheries Harbours Corporation, Mr. Amarananda Abeygunasekara, Senior Leaders from the Southern Province, Officials from the Government of Sri Lanka and a large number of beneficiaries attended the function.

The project envisages supporting livelihood activities by providing useful tools and equipment to the beneficiaries. In particular, 7000 bicycles, 1000 sewing machines and 60000 grub hoes are being disbursed to beneficiaries. Ceylon Fisheries Harbours Corporation is the implementing agency for the project and Government of India has provided SLR 138 million SLR as grant assistance for this purpose. It is expected that close to 70,000 persons/families will be able to improve their incomes and enhance their livelihood thanks to this project.

Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Sandhu emphasized the importance of capacity building and recalled the numerous projects being implemented all over Sri Lanka with Indian assistance. He reiterated India's readiness to continue to assist Sri Lanka wherever possible and whenever needed. He highlighted the enormous strides made by India in the field of agriculture, and offered to share expertise and technical assistance in this sector. Hon. Minister Amaraweera thanked India for its support for this important project.

This project is in continuation of Government of India's commitment to assist the Government of Sri Lanka as part of our bilateral development partnership. India's overall commitment for development assistance to Sri Lanka stands at a total of around US\$ 2.9 billion, out of which US\$ 545 million is pure grant assistance.



Director General Indian Coast Guard Visits Sri Lanka

May 08, 2018

Director General Rajendra Singh, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard arrive Sri Lanka on May 08, 2018 on an official visit. During his visit he participated to 3rd High Level Meeting between Sri Lanka Coast Guard and the Indian Coast Guard which was held on May 09, 2018 at Light House Galley in Colombo. Director General Rajendra Singh, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard and Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge, Director General of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard headed two delegations at the meeting. Meeting was conducted in a friendly environment and many issues related to fishermen, security, capacity building, cooperation, sharing of information, and participation in bi/multi lateral exercises, were discussed at the meeting.

Further, Indian delegation paid courtesy calls to His Excellency the High Commissioner of India, Defence Secretary, Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Navy and the Director General of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard.

Signing of MoU between two Coast Guards on 'The Establishment of Collaborative Relationship to Combat Transnational Illegal Activities at Sea and Develop Regional Cooperation between SLCG & ICG' was another important event that took place during the visit of Director General of Indian Coast Guard.

Indian Coast Guard and Sri Lanka Coast Guard are maintaining close cooperation and good relationship between them and this visit will heighten the bond between two Coast Guards.



Visit of Indian Army Chief Providing an Impetus to Bilateral Defence Ties

May 13, 2018 - Courtesy - <http://www.army.lk>



Expecting to add a catalyst to furthering of defence cooperation between India and Sri Lanka and discuss issues of bilateral relevance, Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army, General Bipin Rawat arrived here on May 13, 2018 afternoon on a seven-day long official visit at the invitation of his Sri Lankan counterpart, Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake.

A red carpet welcome ceremony, comprised by traditional Ves dancers adding grandeur to the occasion greeted him on arrival at the tarmac at Colombo Bandaranaike International Airport.

Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake, Commander of the Army, together with Mrs Chandrika Senanayake, President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) were at the venue to extend a warm welcome to the visiting India's Army Chief, General Bipin Rawat and his spouse, Mrs Madhulika Rawat.

The five-member delegation is comprised of the spouse of General Bipin Rawat, Mrs Madhulika Rawat, Major General Prithi Singh, Brigadier Mukesh Aggarwal and Major Anshul Ahlawat.



Major General Anura Sudasinghe, Senior Liaison Officer and Captain Ashok Rao, Defence Adviser at Indian High Commission and senior military Officers were also at the airport to receive the Indian Chief of the Army Staff.

During his stay in Sri Lanka, the visiting Army Chief called on the HE the President, Hon Prime Minister, State Minister of Defence, Defence Secretary, Chief of Defence Staff, Tri-forces Commanders and a few others. Moreover, he will attend wreath-laying ceremonies at the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) cenotaph at Battaramulla. In addition, he is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka Military





Academy at Diyatalawa, Trincomalee and Galle during his stay in the isle.

A parallel separate reception, organized by Mrs Chandrika Senanayake, President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit and its members in honour of the spouse of the visiting Army Chief, Mrs Madhulika Rawat, also was held.

A separate welcome ceremony at Taj Samudra Hotel attended by His Excellency Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India for Sri Lanka, Major General Ajith Kariyakarawana, Deputy Chief of Staff and several Senior Officers of the Sri Lanka Army greeted him.

Here follows General Bipin Rawat's profile:

General Bipin Rawat, is an alumnus of St. Edward School, Shimla, and the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; he was commissioned to the Fifth Bn, the Eleventh Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in December 1978, from IMA, Dehradun, where he was awarded the 'Sword of Honour'. The officer has vast experience in operations across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles. He commanded an Infantry battalion, along the Line of Actual Control in the Eastern Sector; a Rashtriya Rifles Sector; an Infantry Division in



the Kashmir Valley; and, a Corps in the North East. The officer also commanded a Multinational Brigade, in a Chapter VII mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). As an Army Cdr, he commanded a theatre of ops along the Western Front.

General Rawat's staff and instructional assignments include, Instructional tenure at IMA Dehradun; General Staff Officer, at the Military Operations Directorate; Logistics staff officer of a Division in Central India; Colonel Military Secretary and Deputy Military Secretary in the Military Secretary's Branch; and Senior Instructor, Junior Command Wing. He has been Major General General Staff of the Eastern Theatre, and the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.


General Bipin Rawat is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, the Higher Command and National Defence College courses and, has attended the Command and General Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth, USA. The officer during the span of over 38 years' service in uniform has been awarded for gallantry and distinguished service with the UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM; COAS Commendation on two occasions and the Army Commander's Commendation. Whilst serving with the United Nations, he was twice

awarded the Force Commander's Commendation.

Academically inclined, the General has authored numerous articles on 'National Security' and 'Leadership' which have been published in various journals and publications. He was awarded M. Phil in Defence Studies from Madras University, and holds two Diplomas, in Management and Computer Studies respectively. General Bipin Rawat completed his research on military media strategic studies and was awarded Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D) from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.

The General officer assumed the appointment of the Chief of the Army Staff on December 31, 2016.





The most revered Buddha relics from Sarnath in Sri Lanka for first time

Vesak exposition for the public
at Temple Trees from April 29,
2018 till May 03, 2018

May 29, 2018



Lord Buddha's most revered relics, from Sarnath, were brought to Sri Lanka April 28, 2018 for public exposition on the occasion of Vesak. The relics, carried by the General Secretary of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, Ven. P. Seewali Thera were received by India's High Commissioner Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu inside the Air India aircraft and presented to Speaker Karu Jayasuriya at the foot of the gangway.

This is the first time these sacred relics have been brought to Sri Lanka from India, and special arrangements have been made by the Government of India for this purpose with the concurrence of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, the High Commission of India said in a release this week.

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya seen carrying the sacred Buddha relics from Sarnath to the VVIP Lounge of BIA where a brief religious ceremony was held before the relics were transported to the Prime Minister's official residence in a special motorcade. Also in the picture are Lands and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Gayantha Karunatillake, Indian High Commissioner Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Maha Bodhi Society of India General Secretary Ven. P. Seewali Thera.

The public paid homage to these relics at Temple Trees in Colombo from April 29, 2018 till May 03, 2018.

These relics were enshrined at the Mulagandhakuti Vihara at Sarnath in India. Sarnath is historically significant since Lord Buddha preached his





first sermon in a deer park in the area after attaining Buddhahood. Anagarika Dharmapala, founder of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, built the Mulagandhakuti Vihara to restore the glory of Sarnath. The land and the sacred relics were gifted to the Maha Bodhi Society of India by the Government of India.

A specially-made casket secures these two most revered and authentic relics. The first relics, enclosed within the silver casket enshrined in the Vihara, were found by Sir John Marshall in 1913-14 near the ancient city of Taxila (Takshasila). They were found in a small Buddhist chapel close to the Dharmarajika Stupa in, a silver reliquary with inscriptions dating the year 136 (circa 79 A.D). They were recorded as the relics of the Blessed One.

The second relic enshrined at Sarnath was found by A. H. Longhurst of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1929 in a large Stupa at Nagarjunakonda in the Guntur District of the then Madras Presidency. The Stupa in which the relic was found is described as the Maha Chetiya or viz. the 'Great Stupa' of the Blessed One.

The High Commission of India thanked the Mahabodhi Society of India for loaning these sacred relics for exposition in Colombo and said the sacred relics of Sarnath are "yet another manifestation of the shared Buddhist heritage of India and Sri Lanka, which forms a spiritual bond between our two nations".

Several monks and lay members from the Maha Bodhi Society of India and officials of the Indian Archeological Department have accompanied the relics. Speaking at the brief ceremony, Ven. Seewali Thera said that on the instructions of the Anagarika Dharmapala, resident monks at the Mulaghandakuti Vihara at Sarnath have been reciting the Dhammachakka Sutra - the first sermon of Lord Buddha enunciating the Doctrine of the Middle Path, every evening for the past nearly one hundred years at the Vihar









Indian High Commission Stall at Buddha Rashmi National Vesak Zone near Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Temple

April 29 - May 2, 2018



Student Exchange Program between India and Sri Lanka

May 12, 2018



The High Commission of India facilitated a Youth Exchange Programme for the students of The Lawrence School, Sanawar - India (established in 1847) and The Royal College - Colombo(established in 1835) The delegation from Sanawar, led by Headmaster Vinay Pande, comprising two teachers and four students from Class 12, visited Sri Lanka from April 26-30, 2018.

In Colombo, the delegation called on the Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe at Temple Trees. High commissioner of India to Sri Lanka H.E. Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu was also present during the occasion. The delegation visited the Royal College of Colombo, interacted with students and faculty and had an exposure to the curricular as well as

extra-curricular activities of the prestigious institution. The delegation also visited the Richmond College in Galle.

The delegation also visited the historic city of Kandy, paid respects at Dalada Maligawa and participated in the famed Vesak day celebrations of Colombo. The students interacted with wood craftsmen and local artisans.

The exchange programme is intended to open new avenues for both the schools and strengthen cultural, educational and people to people ties between two countries. The Lawrence School of Sanawar in Shimla Hills will be hosting students from the Royal College in coming months as part of youth and students exchange as well as participate in sports and other activities.



India develops Most Ven. Maduluwawe Sobitha Thero Village in Anuradhapura

May 28, 2018



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Most Venerable Maduluwawe Sobitha Thero
 for a new Dwelling House
 at Anuradhapura with the financial assistance
 donated by His Excellency
 Rt. Hon. Ranil Wickremesekera
 Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
 His Excellency
 Hon. Indira Gunawardena
 Deputy Prime Minister
 Hon. Gayana Weerasinghe
 Minister of Lands and Survey



At a special ceremony held on May 27, 2018, foundation stone was laid to start the construction work for development of Most Ven Maduluwawe Sobitha Thero Village (Elapathagama) in Anuradhapura District.

The foundation stone was jointly laid by Honorable Speaker of Parliament Mr. Karu Jayasuriya, Honorable Minister of Housing and Construction Mr. Sajith Premadasa and Acting High Commissioner of India H.E. Mr. Arindam Bagchi in presence of Honorable Minister of Land and Parliamentary Reforms Mr. Gayantha Karunathilake, Honorable Minister of Primary Industries Mr. Daya Gamage and Honorable Minister of Social Empowerment Mr. P Harrison and with the blessings from venerable monks from the Mahasanga,

Several Hon. Members of Parliament, senior Officials from Government of Sri Lanka, Board members of Ven. Maduluwawe Sobitha Thero Commemoration Foundation and a large number of public also participated in the event.

The village will be developed using a grant of SLR 300 million from the Government of India. The project envisages construction of 153 new houses, a multipurpose community building and alms hall, internal water supply system and renovation of Monk's Quarters & library.

This project is part of India's development cooperation with Sri Lanka. Ministry of Housing and Construction is the Implementing Partner from the Government of Sri Lanka for this project. In addition to the above project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Construction two other projects to construct model villages in each district and model villages in Southern Province of Sri Lanka comprising of a total of 1200 houses are also under progress.

Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore celebrated in Sri Lanka

May 09, 2018



Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore has a special place in the heart of Sri Lankans, and his legacy continues to have a lasting influence on local art and culture. In this context, special events were organized in Colombo to commemorate the 157th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev.

The Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies of University of Colombo organised an event at the Main Library of the University. H.E. Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and garlanded the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Senior Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Prof. Nayani Melegoda, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, academicians, students of the University of Colombo and Sri Lankan admirers of Gurudev Tagore, attended the event. This bronze bust of Tagore is sculpted by Janak Jhankar Narzary of Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, and was gifted by Government of India to the University in 2012.

Separately, the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a special Bharatnatyam performance by Himanshu Srivastava, an eminent dancer from Benaras. The performance was based on Tagore's compositions, and was deeply appreciated. Numerous other events in Sri Lanka were also held on the occasion.



Curtain Raiser



Yoga for Youth..... Yoga for All

High Commission of India presents YOGA FOR YOUTH...YOGA FOR ALL, an innovative Yoga programme that envisages reaching out to more than 20,000 students at different Universities all over Sri Lanka. It aims to create awareness and spread the essence of Yoga among the youth of Sri Lanka. This programme will lead on to the 4th International Day of Yoga next month.

Yoga is a key element of the shared cultural heritage of India and Sri Lanka and an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition to humanity. In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution piloted by India to declare June 21 each year as the "International Day of Yoga". The resolution was supported by more than 170 countries, with Sri Lanka being one of the first co-sponsors. Since then, International Day of Yoga has been celebrated with great enthusiasm each year throughout Sri Lanka.

A team of Yoga instructors from all the eminent yoga institutes of Sri Lanka, as well as the Indian Cultural Centre, has been raveling to different Universities and conducted a series of Yoga lecture-demonstrations and workshops from May 09, 2018 to May 28, 2018.

- May 9 Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura
- May 10 University of Jaffna, Jaffna
- May 14 University of Ruhunu, Matara
- May 18 University of Sabaragamuwa, Belihuloya
- May 21 General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana
- May 28 University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Colombo

These events were organized in collaboration with Consulate General of India, Jaffna, Consulate General of India, Hambantota, Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy and eminent Yoga institutes of Sri Lanka such as Astanka Yoga Mandir, Sethsada Yoga, Youth Council of Sri Lanka, Institute of Human Excellence, A.A.Y.U.S.H., Sri Lanka, Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Center, Om Kriya Babaji Yoga Aranyam, Hatha Yoga Centre, Prana Lounge and Shakhti Ananda Yoga school.



Curtain Raiser

Yoga for Youth..... Yoga for All

4th International Day of Yoga - 2018



President at 'Swaasam-union' collective cultural show as Chief Guest

May 16, 2018

President Maithripala Sirisena was the chief guest at the cultural show, "Swaasam Union" at the Bishop's College Auditorium yesterday (15).

The artistes of Aru Sri Art's academy collaborated with the High Commission in India organized this cultural event.

Dr. Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan and artiste, Himangshu Shrivastav and Divya Ravi were presented with tokens of appreciation by President Sirisena for production and direction as well as for the dance performances in this event.

High Commissioner of India Tharanjit Singh Sandhu and State Minister Ms. Wijeykala Maheswaran and other guests were present in this event.







Holi -Festival of Colours

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, on March 19, 2018, celebrated Holi in a fun filled manner which was organized by the Hindi class students and teachers . The students of Indian Cultural Centre from Hindi dept. presented a variety of cultural programmes including dance, songs.



Carnatic Vocal Recital

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, on March 14, 2018, presented a Carnatic music Recital by Dharshani Arulanandam of Sri Lanka.





Celebrating Maestro Illayaraja

An evening of soul stirring instrumental music paying tribute to great composer of India Maestro Illayaraja by eminent Musician pianist Soundarie David Rodrigo on April 27, 2018



Events and programs



Samarpana

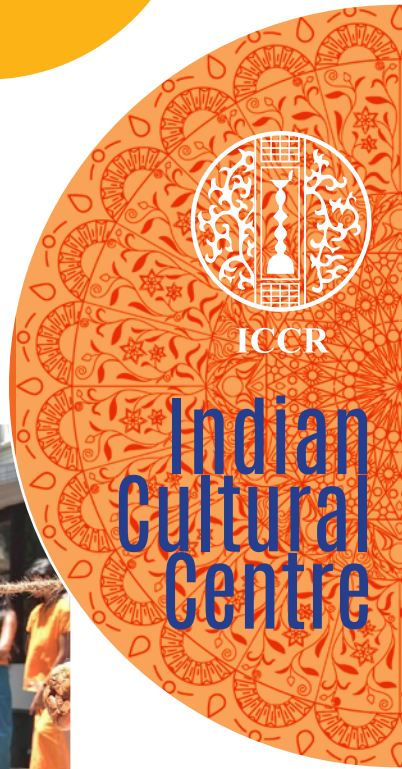
Samarpana - An Odissi dance recital by Buddhi Edirisinghe, IC-CR scholar held on April 20, 2018 at the Centre





**Sinhala & Tamil
New Year
Celebrations**

Celebrations of Sinhala and Tamil
New Year was organized by the
Kathak class students of the
Indian Cultural Centre on April
24, 2018





Bharathanatyam recital By Divya Ravi

Divya Ravi an established dancer from India presented a captivating dance performance at the Centre on May 16, 2018



Events
and
Programs

Bharathanatyam Recital by Himanshu Srivastava

Senior disciple of guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan and guru Smt. Rama Vaidyanathan, Himanshu Srivastava, presented a Bharatha Natyam Recital at the Indian Cultural Centre on May 07, 2018





ICCR

The Government of India has decided to name the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo after the famous Indian philosopher and spiritual leader, Swami Vivekananda.

The Indian Cultural Centre, which has been a prominent hub of cultural activities in Colombo since 1998, will henceforth be called “Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo” (SVCC).

Swami Vivekananda is a globally respected personality, who was at the forefront of social reform in India in the 19th century. He was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. He is the founder of the Ramakrishna Mission, known for its commendable humanitarian service across the world, including in Sri Lanka. Naming the Indian Cultural Centre after Swami Vivekananda is particularly significant given his close association with Sri Lanka, and his historic visit in 1897.

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo renamed as “Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo”

May 25, 2018





INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH REPORT

During February 2018, eight core infrastructure industries grew by 5.3 per cent year-on-year, as compared to 6.7 per cent growth in January 2018. The growth of core industries during April 2017-February 2018 was 4.3 per cent, as compared to 4.7 per cent growth during the same period in 2016-17.

Overall year-on-year growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was 7.1 per cent in February 2018, as compared with 1.2 per cent growth in February 2017. During April 2017-February 2018, IIP growth was 4.3 per cent as compared to growth of 4.7 per cent during the same period in 2016-17.

Foreign exchange reserves were US\$ 424.4 billion as on March 30, 2018, as against US\$ 370 billion in March 2017.

Broad money supply (M3) increased 9.6 per cent on year-on-year basis as on March 30, 2018, compared to 6.9 per cent in the corresponding period a year ago.

Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) remained unchanged at 2.5 per cent in March 2018 as compared to February 2018. Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) as per new series (combined) decreased to 4.3 per cent in March 2018 as compared to 4.4 per cent in February 2018.

Gross tax revenue collection for April 2017-February 2018 increased by 15.75 per cent to Rs 15,68,391 crore (US\$ 240.91 billion) over the collection during the same period last year.

Second advance estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in February 2018, estimated the growth rate of GDP at constant (2011-12) market prices for FY 2017-18 at 6.6 per cent. As per the first revised estimates of national income released by CSO in January 2018, growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant market prices was 7.1 per cent in 2016-17 and 8.2 per cent in 2015-16.

The growth of Gross Value Added (GVA) at constant (2011-12) basic prices for agriculture and allied sectors, industry sector and services sector are estimated at 3.0 per cent, 4.8 per cent and 8.3 per cent respectively for 2017-18.

ABOUT INDIAN ECONOMY GROWTH RATE & STATISTICS

April, 2018

India has emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world as per the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and it is expected to be one of the top three economic powers of the world over the next 10-15 years, backed by its strong democracy and partnerships. India's GDP is estimated to have increased 6.6 per cent in 2017-18 and is expected to grow 7.3 per cent in 2018-19.

Market size

India's gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices grew by 7.2 per cent in September-December 2017 quarter as per the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO). Corporate earnings in India are expected to grow by 15-20 per cent in FY 2018-19 supported by recovery in capital expenditure, according to JM Financial.

The tax collection figures between April 2017- February 2018 show an increase in net direct taxes by 19.5 per cent year-on-year and an increase in net direct taxes by 22.2 per cent year-on-year.

India has retained its position as the third largest startup base in the world with over 4,750 technology startups, with about 1,400 new start-ups being founded in 2016, according to a report by NASSCOM.

India's labour force is expected to touch 160-170 million by 2020, based on rate of population growth, increased labour force participation, and higher education enrolment, among other factors, according to a study by ASSOCHAM and Thought Arbitrage Research Institute.

India's foreign exchange reserves were US\$ 422.53 billion in the week up to March 23, 2018, according to data from the RBI.

Recent Developments

With the improvement in the economic scenario, there have been various investments in various sectors of the economy. The M&A activity in India increased 53.3 per cent to US\$ 77.6 billion in 2017 while private equity (PE) deals reached US\$ 24.4 billion. Some of the important recent developments in Indian economy are as follows:

India's merchandise exports and imports grew 11.02 per cent and 21.04 per cent on a y-o-y basis to US\$ 273.73 billion and US\$ 416.87 billion, respectively, during April-February 2017-18.

India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows reached US\$ 208.99 billion during April 2014 - December 2017, with maximum contribution from services, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, construction, trading and automobiles.

India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose 7.5 per cent year-on-year in January 2018 while retail inflation reached a four month low of 4.4 per cent in February 2018.

Employment on net basis in eight key sectors in India including manufacturing, IT and transport increased by 136,000 in July-September quarter of 2017-18.

The average salary hike of Indian employees is estimated to be 9.4 per cent and that of key talents is estimated to be



nearly 15.4 per cent in 2018, backed by increased focus on performance by companies, according to Aon Hewitt.

Indian merchandise exports in dollar terms registered a growth of 4.48 per cent year-on-year in February 2018 at US\$ 25.83 billion, according to the data from Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Indian companies raised Rs 1.6 trillion (US\$ 24.96 billion) through primary market in 2017.

Moody's upgraded India's sovereign rating after 14 years to Baa2 with a stable economic outlook.

The top 100 companies in India are leading in the world in terms of disclosing their spending on corporate social responsibility (CSR), according to a 49-country study by global consultancy giant, KPMG.

The bank recapitalisation plan by Government of India is expected to push credit growth in the country to 15 per cent, according to a report by Ambit Capital.

India has improved its ranking in the World Bank's Doing Business Report by 30 spots over its 2017 ranking and is ranked 100 among 190 countries in 2018 edition of the report.

India's ranking in the world has improved to 126 in terms of its per capita GDP, based on purchasing power parity (PPP) as it increased to US\$ 7,170 in 2017, as per data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

India is expected to have 100,000 startups by 2025, which will create employment for 3.25 million people and US\$ 500 billion in value, as per Mr T V Mohan Das Pai, Chairman, Manipal Global Education.

The World Bank has stated that private investments in India is expected to grow by 8.8 per cent in FY 2018-19 to overtake private consumption growth of 7.4 per cent, and thereby drive the growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP) in FY 2018-19.

The Niti Aayog has predicted that rapid adoption of green mobility solutions like public transport, electric vehicles and car-pooling could likely help India save around Rs 3.9 trillion (US\$ 60 billion) in 2030.

Indian impact investments may grow 25 per cent annually to US\$ 40 billion from US\$ 4 billion by 2025, as per Mr Anil Sinha, Global Impact Investing Network's (GIIN's) advisor for South Asia.

The Union Cabinet, Government of India, has approved the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), Integrated GST (IGST), Union Territory GST (UTGST), and Compensation Bill.

The Nikkei India manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index increased at the fastest pace in December 2017 to reach 54.7, signaling a recovery in the economy.

Government Initiatives

The Union Budget for 2018-19 was announced by Mr Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Finance, Government of India, in Parliament on February 01, 2018. This year's budget will focus on uplifting the rural economy and strengthening of the agriculture sector, healthcare for the economically less privileged, infrastructure creation and improvement in the quality of education of the country. As per the budget, the government is committed towards doubling the farmers' income by 2022. A total of Rs 14.34 lakh crore (US\$ 225.43 billion) will be spent for creation of livelihood and infrastructure in rural areas. Budgetary allocation for infrastructure is set at Rs 5.97 lakh crore (US\$ 93.85 billion) for 2018-19. All-time high allocations have been made to the rail and road sectors.

India's unemployment rate is expected to be 3.5 per cent in 2018, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Numerous foreign companies are setting up their facilities in India on account of various government initiatives like Make in India and Digital India. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, has launched the Make in India initiative with an aim to boost the manufacturing sector of Indian economy, to increase the purchasing power of an average Indian consumer, which would further boost demand, and hence spur development, in addition to benefiting investors. The Government of India, under the Make in India initiative, is trying to give boost to the contribution made by the manufacturing sector and aims to take it up to 25 per cent of the GDP from the current 17 per cent. Besides, the Government has also come up with Digital India initiative, which focuses on three core components: creation of digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally and to increase the digital literacy.

Some of the recent initiatives and developments undertaken by the government are listed below:

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the North-East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017 in March 2018 with an outlay of Rs 3,000 crores (US\$ 460 million) up to March 2020.

In March 2018, construction of 321,567 additional houses across 523 cities under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India with an allocation of Rs 18,203 crore.

The Ministry of Power, Government of India has partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to provide training to the manpower in six states in an effort to speed up the implementation of SAUBHAGYA (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna).

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) will be continued with an outlay of Rs 5,500 crore (US\$ 844.81 million) for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20, according to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

In February 2018, The Union Cabinet Committee has approved setting up of National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) for Rs 60,000 crore (US\$ 9.3 billion) which will help in raising requisite funds in the next four years.

The target of an Open Defecation Free (ODF) India will be achieved by October 02, 2019 as adequate funding is available to the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), according to Ms Uma Bharti, Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India.

The Government of India has succeeded in providing road connectivity to 85 per cent of the 178,184 eligible rural habitations in the country under its Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) since its launch in 2014.

A total of 15,183 villages have been electrified in India between April 2015-November 2017 and complete electrification of all villages is expected by May 2018, according to Mr Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.

The Government of India has decided to invest Rs 2.11 trillion (US\$ 32.9 billion) to recapitalise public sector banks over the next two years and Rs 7 trillion (US\$ 109.31 billion) for construction of new roads and highways over the next five years.

The mid-term review of India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 has been released by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, under which annual incentives for labour intensive MSME sectors have been increased by 2 per cent.

The India-Japan Act East Forum, under which India and Japan will work on development projects in the North-East Region of India will be a milestone for bilateral relations between the two countries, according to Mr Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India.

The Government of India will spend around Rs 1 lakh crore (US\$ 15.62 billion) during FY 18-20 to build roads in the country under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

The Government of India plans to facilitate partnerships between gram panchayats, private companies and other social organisations, to push for rural development under its 'Mission Antyodaya' and has already selected 50,000 panchayats across the country for the same.

The Government of India and the Government of Portugal have signed 11 bilateral agreements in areas of outer space, double taxation, and nano technology, among others, which will help in strengthening the economic ties between the two countries.

India's revenue receipts are estimated to touch Rs 28-30 trillion (US\$ 436- 467 billion) by 2019, owing to Government of India's measures to strengthen infrastructure and reforms like demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Road Ahead

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to reach US\$ 6 trillion by FY27 and achieve upper-middle income status on the back of digitisation, globalisation, favourable demographics, and reforms.

India is also focusing on renewable sources to generate energy. It is planning to achieve 40 per cent of its energy from non-fossil sources by 2030 which is currently 30 per cent and also have plans to increase its renewable energy capacity from 57 GW to 175 GW by 2022.

India is expected to be the third largest consumer economy as its consumption may triple to US\$ 4 trillion by 2025, owing to shift in consumer behaviour and expenditure pattern, according to a Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report; and is estimated to surpass USA to become the second largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) by the year 2040, according to a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers.



Successful Test Firing of Brahmos to Validate Service Life Extension

May 21, 2018

BrahMos, supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired at 1040 hours on May 21, 2018 from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha as part of service life extension programme. The life extension test firing of BrahMos was conducted from a Static Inclined Launcher, proving the efficacy and longevity of the system which was witnessed by the Scientist from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and BrahMos.

The precision strike missile flew in its designated trajectory and the key components functioned perfectly.

BrahMos is a joint venture between DRDO of India and NPOM of Russia, the highly versatile BrahMos has emerged as the ultimate weapon of choice in modern warfare with its unmatched speed, precision and firepower.

Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated team DRDO and BrahMos for the successful test firing and said that it would result in huge saving of replacement cost of missiles held in the inventory of Indian Armed Forces.

Chairman DRDO & Secretary Department of Defence R&D Dr S Christopher, congratulated team DRDO and BrahMos scientists on the successful validation of life extension test firing of BrahMos Missile. DG (BrahMos) & CEO & MD, BrahMos Dr Sudhir Mishra congratulated the team BrahMos for the successful flight test and said this launch will benefit the Armed Forces to maintain inventory for economical and longer duration.



Russian-Indian BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

The BrahMos anti-ship missile was jointly developed by Russia's Engineering Research and Production Association (NPO) and the Indian Defense Ministry's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)



Specifications

- Lift-off weight: **3,000 kg** (sea-launched version), **2,500 kg** (air-launched version)
- Warhead: **Up to 300 kg**
- Flight altitude: **From 5 to 14,000 meters**
- Maximum speed: **Mach 2.8**
- Diameter: **70 cm**
- Wingspan: **1.7 meters**
- Range: **290 km**

Designation

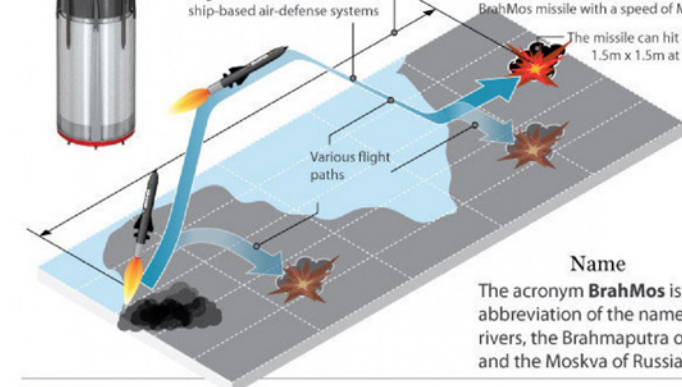
The missile is designed to hit all classes of warships
The missile is fired from mobile self-contained launchers installed onboard submarines, warships and fixed-wing aircraft

History and prospects

The BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited Joint venture was established in 1998 and started working on the project
Twenty successful tests were conducted
The Indian Air Force has already adopted the missile
BrahMos Aerospace is ready to enter the international market. Prospective clients include 14 countries
The Indian Air Force requires 1,000 BrahMos missiles
In all, 2,000 Brahmos missiles can be exported
There are plans to develop the hypersonic BrahMos missile with a speed of Mach 5

The missile rapidly loses altitude while approaching its target and thus evades ship-based air-defense systems

The missile can hit a target of 1.5m x 1.5m at maximum range



Name

The acronym **BrahMos** is an abbreviation of the names of two rivers, the Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia

India sixth wealthiest country with total wealth of USD 8,230 bn'

May 21, 2018

New Delhi: India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of USD 8,230 billion, while the US is the richest nation globally, says a report.

According to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, the US is the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of USD 62,584 billion, followed by China (USD 24,803 billion) at the second place and Japan (USD 19,522 billion) at the third place.

Total wealth refers to the private wealth held by all the individuals living in each country. It includes all their assets (property, cash, equities, business interests) less any liabilities. We exclude government funds from our figures. Larger countries have an advantage due to higher populations.

Other countries in the top 10 wealthiest list includes the UK USD (9,919 billion), Germany (USD 9,660 billion), India (USD 8,230 billion), Australia (USD 6,142 billion), Canada (USD 6,393 billion), France (USD 6,649 billion) and Italy (USD 4,276 billion).

Factors that will help in wealth creation in India include, large number of entrepreneurs, good educational system, robust outlook for IT, business process outsourcing, real estate, healthcare and media sectors which will result in a 200 per cent rise 10 year wealth growth forecast, according to the report.

In the coming decade, China is expected to witness a significant rise in total wealth to USD 69,449 billion by 2027, while wealth of the US would be around USD 75,101 billion.

Globally, the total private wealth held worldwide amounts to around USD 215 trillion and there are around 15.2 million HNWI's in the world, each with net assets of USD 1 million or more.

There are about 584,000 multi-millionaires in the world, each with net assets of USD 10 million or more and 2,252 billionaires in the world, each with net assets of USD 1 billion or more, the report added.

Over the next 10 years, Australia is expected to overtake Canada and gain significant ground on Germany and the UK. While, India will overtake Germany and the UK to become the 4th largest wealth market worldwide by 2027.

Global wealth is expected to rise by 50 per cent over the

next decade, reaching USD 321 trillion by 2027. The fastest growing wealth markets are expected to be Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam, China, Mauritius, the report said.



GSLV Successfully Launches GSAT-6A Satellite

March 29, 2018



India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F08) successfully launched GSAT-6A Satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on March 29, 2018. Today's launch of GSLV was its twelfth and took place from the Second

Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, the spaceport of India. This is the fifth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage.

In its oval shaped GTO, GSAT-6A is now orbiting the Earth with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 169.4 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 36,692.5 km with an orbital inclination of 20.64 deg with respect to the equator.

Few seconds before the launch countdown reached zero, the four liquid propellant strap-on motors of GSLV-F08, each with nearly 43 tons of liquid propellants, were ignited. At count zero and after confirming the normal performance of all the four strap-on motors, the 139 ton solid propellant first stage core motor was ignited and GSLV lifted off at 16:56 IST, as scheduled. The major phases of the flight occurred as intended. About seventeen and a half minutes after lift-off, GSAT-6A was successfully placed in GTO.

Soon after separation from GSLV, the two solar arrays of GSAT-6A were automatically deployed in quick succession and the Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka assumed control of the satellite.

GSAT-6A is a communication satellite built by ISRO to provide mobile communication services through multi beam coverage. For this, it is equipped with S and C band transponders.

In the coming days, the orbit of GSAT-6A will be raised from its present GTO to the final circular Geostationary Orbit (GSO) by firing the satellite's Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) in stages. The Satellite will be commissioned into service after the completion of orbit raising operations and its positioning in the designated slot in GSO following in-orbit testing of its payloads.

PSLV-C41 Successfully Launches IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite

April 12, 2018

In its forty third flight, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C41 successfully launched the 1425 kg IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite on April 12, 2018 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

PSLV-C41 lifted off at 0404 hrs (4:04 am) IST, as planned, from the First Launch Pad. After a flight lasting about 19 minutes, the vehicle achieved a Sub Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) of 281.5 km and an apogee (farthest point to earth) of 20,730 km inclined at an angle of 19.2 degree to the equator following which IRNSS-1I separated from PSLV.

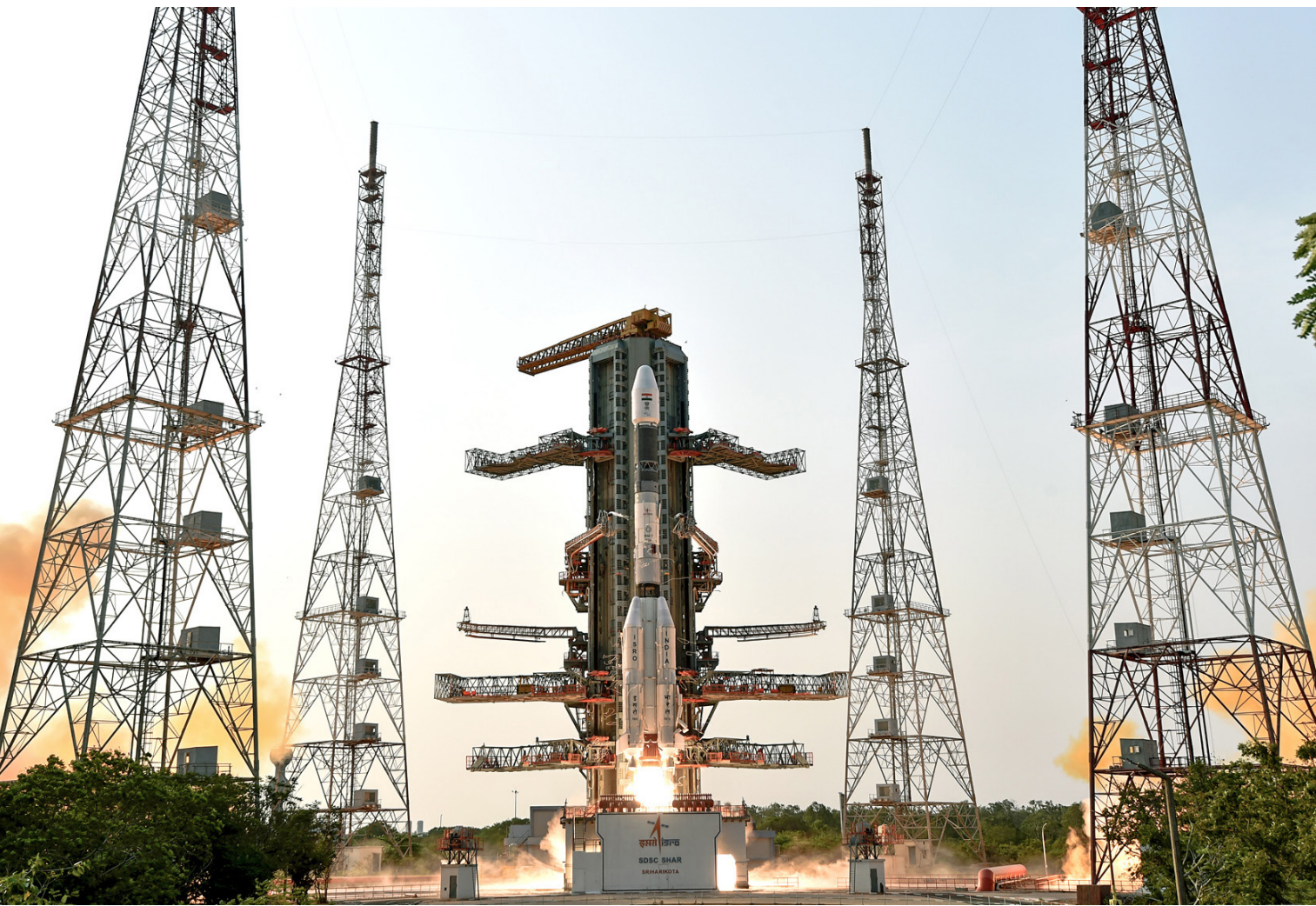
After separation, the solar panels of IRNSS-1I were deployed automatically. ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan, Karnataka took over the control of the satellite. In the coming days, orbit manoeuvres will be performed from MCF to position the satellite at 55 deg East longitude in the

planned Geosynchronous Orbit with an inclination of 29 deg to the equator.

IRNSS-1I is the latest member of the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)' system. NavIC, also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.

A number of ground facilities responsible for IRNSS satellite ranging and monitoring, generation and transmission of navigation parameters, satellite control, network timing, etc., have been established in many locations across the country as part of NavIC.

Till now, PSLV has successfully launched 52 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.



Karnataka has more than twenty per cent of its area under forest cover. There are many wildlife sanctuaries in the state and they have a rich variety of flora and fauna.

Brief History of Karnataka

Evidences from the pre-historic ages indicate that the culture of Karnataka had much in common with the civilization of Africa and is quite distinct from the pre-historic culture of North India. Iron weapons dating back to 1200 BC found at Hallur in Dhaward district point to the inhabitants of the early state using iron much before the metal was introduced in the northern parts of the country.

The early rulers of Karnataka were predominantly from North India. Parts of Karnataka were subject to the rule of the Nandas and the Mauryas. It is believed that Chandragupta Maurya came down to Sravanabelgola after renouncing his empire. Proof of the Ashokan edicts scattered all over the land. After the Kadambas who first laid the foundation of a political empire in Karnataka, came the great Chalukyas of Badami, of whom Pulakesin II was the most illustrious. The Rashtrakutas who followed were no less a powerful dynasty. Consider the pinnacle of their achievement, the rock-cut Kailasanathar temple of Ellora. Renowned among the Rashtrakuta kings, is Amoghavarsha Nrupatunga of the 9th century, under whose benevolent patronage was published the 'Kavirajamarga' (Royal Road to Poetry). Nevertheless, it was the Badami Chalukyas whose style of architecture and patronage of the arts really made way for Kannada and Karnataka to flourish. Moreover, descendents to this tradition of patronage were the Hoysalas,

Karnataka

Karnataka has attractive villages and towns, friendly rural folk, misty mountain ranges of the Western Ghats, lovely waterfalls, cacophony of migratory birds at Ranganathittu, call of the wild at Bandipur and Nagarhole, and the mild aroma of teak, ebony and rosewood in the forests. The state is steeped in tradition yet is one of the forerunners of the information technology revolution in the country. The state has changed the very nature of Indian business and put it in the front row of international frontline technology. The combination of beauty and the brains is just unimaginable here.



Ambavilas Palace, otherwise known as the Mysore Palace, is a historical palace and a royal residence at Mysore in the southern Karnataka state of India.

whose poetry endures in the temples of Halebid and Belur and in the one perfect jewel at Somnathpura. In 1327, Mohammed bin Tughlaq took over Halebid and the impact that his army had on the intricately built temple is evident even today. After this, Mysore was in a swing for a great number of centuries with alternating Hindu and Muslim rulers.

A recognized peak in the Hindu kingships came with the success of the Vijayanagar Empire, which was at its prime in the 1550s. Not much later, though, the Deccan sultans took over Hampi, the capital of Vijayanagar. The most prolific rulers after the Vijayanagar kings were the father-son duo of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan in the 18th century. They overthrew the Wodeyar kings of Mysore and established their new capital at Srirangpatnam. They were the first rulers in India who recognized the importance of scientific warfare and took the services of French to defeat the English. After long drawn fighting with the English, Haider Ali was defeated in 1799, but the heroism and progressive culture that he and his father gave is a legacy still maintained by the people. During the British rule, Karnataka was a part of the Madras Presidency and it became a new state only in 1956. It was name of Mysore and added some districts from the former Bombay Presidency. The state was renamed Karnataka in 1971.



Districts of Karnataka

Karnataka has 27 districts divided in four divisions:

Bangalore Division: Bangalore, Bangalore Rural, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Kolar, Shimoga and Tumkur

Belgaum Division: Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri and Uttara Kannada





Gulbarga Division: Bellary, Bidar, Gulbarga, Koppal and Raichur

Mysore Division: Chamarajanagar, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Kodagu, Mandya, Mysore and Udupi.

Economy of Karnataka

Karnataka is one of the leading states in the field of industrial development both in the private and public sectors and in the area of computer software, which has attracted national and international firms to the city of Bangalore. The state capital was long ago chosen by the central government for the location of a number of industries like Bharat Electronics Ltd, Bharat Earth movers, Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT), Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) etc. Bangalore has become one of the major centers of electronic industry apart from computer software. The state has a number of traditional cottage and small industries like handlooms, silk weaving etc. Karnataka has been the leading state for silk rearing and production of Khadi and village industries. Apart from the numerous factories in engineering,

chemicals, electrical, and electronic goods, there are food processing and processing of plantation products like tea, coffee, rubber, cashew etc. About 70% of the people live in the villages and 71% of the total work force is engaged in agriculture. The main crops are rice, ragi, jowar, maize, and pulses besides oilseeds and number of cash crops. Coffee is the principal plantation crop. Cashew, coconut, arecanut, cardamom, chilies, cotton, sugarcane and tobacco are among the other crops.

Karnataka Tourist Attractions

Karnataka tourist destinations can be classified as historical and archeological. Entire North Karnataka is a showcase of the great heights South India achieved in the field of architecture. Places like Hampi, Halebid, Gulbarga, Badami, Bidar, Bijapur, and Bangalore are known not only in India but world over because of their architectural significance. On the other hand, there are some of the best-managed wildlife sanctuaries in Karnataka.

There are many destinations for visiting

- Belur is situated around 38 km from Hassan, which is 187 km from the capital Bangalore. The Channekeshava Temple at Belur is the only one of the three major Hoysala sites still in use. The construction of this temple started in AD 1116 to commemorate the Hoysala's victory over the Cholas at Talakad. It is said that every Hindu deity has been represented at this temple.
- Halebid is famous for its Hoyasaleswara temple. The construction of the Hoyasaleswara. Every part of the walls of this temple is covered by an endless variety of Hindu deities, sages, stylized animals, birds, etc. The temple is enclosed by a garden and there is a museum nearby.
- Sravanabelgola is famous for the statue of Lord Bahubali (Gommateshwara). The place is an important Jain pilgrimage center and has a long history. The 17 meter high statue of Bahubali is said to be the tallest monolithic structure in the world.
- Aihole is situated on the banks of river Malaprabha at a distance of 483 km from Bangalore. Here, the cave temple of Ravana Phadi stands all by itself backed against the rocky hill out of which it has been carved.





- Mohammed Shah Wali of the Bahmani dynasty selected Bidar as capital in 15th century. The ancient fort at Bidar has a length of 5.5 km and is hewn out of solid rock. It is a very impressive structure, which once held 37 bastions and seven gates, royal baths, audience halls, pleasure pavilions, and water gardens in the style of West Asia. Other interesting monuments include the Rang Mahal, a huge college (madarsa) constructed in 1472, the Barid tombs, Bahmani tombs, and Chaukhandi of Hazrat Khalil-Ullah.
- Gulbarga was the first capital of the Bahmanis and the main attractions here are the tomb of Hazrat Khwaja Band Nawaz Gesu Daraz and a mosque in the old fort.
- Bijapur is a large town with the Gol Gumbaz rising like a humpbacked monarch above the trees, dominating the town from a great distance. The monuments include Ibrahim Roza built in 1626, Taj Baoli, Assa Mahal, Gaggan Mahal, Bara Khamba, and All Saints Church.
- Badami was once the capital of the Chalukya kings and the place is famous for many Hindu and Jain rock-cut cave shrines.
- Hampi is famous for its ruins belonging to the erstwhile medieval Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar and it has been declared a World Heritage site. The Hindu style of architecture found at Hampi reflect the splendor of the Vijayanagar Empire.
- Pattadakal is famous for its 150 temples constructed within a radius of 48 km by the Chalukya kings.
- Somnathpur is home to one of the best examples of Hoysala temple architecture, the Kesava Temple.
- Bangalore is the capital city of the southern Indian state of Karnataka. It is also known as the Garden City because of its many beautiful gardens and parks. Due to the high concentration of IT industry, it also called the Silicon Valley of India.
- The town of Belgaum is the assimilation point of various cultures. Due to its proximity with the states of Maharashtra and Goa, Belgaum has acquired the cultural flavor of these states and blended it with the local Kannada culture to create a rich heritage, which is unique in every one of its manifestations. Belgaum is also famous for its natural beauty. It is also known as Malendu or the Rain Country and the vegetation here is lush green throughout the year.
- The birthplace of the River Cauvery and home of some of India's bravest soldiers, Kodagu or Coorg, is noted for its scenic beauty. Hiking, cross-country biking, or simply motoring down mountain trails in Coorg,
- Mysore is the former capital of Karnataka. A city of palaces, people and smells, the princely city of Mysore is worth a visit whatever the month or season. Mysore is a dream city that never lets down the visitors with its clean, light and easygoing environment. Even with the growth of the city in response to modernization, Mysore has acquired only a mild change of pace.
- Considered to be the finest tiger reserve in India, the Nagarhole National Park derives its name from a combination of two Kannada words- 'Nagar' denoting snake, and 'hole' denoting stream. True to its name, quite a few serpentine streams fork through the rich tropical forests of the park.

Rivers of Karnataka

The Kalyandri, the Gangavathi Bedti, the Tadri, and the Sharavati are the prominent rivers of North Karnataka. Sharavati is the shortest river and is famous for the mighty Jog Falls, the





bhath (a halwa made of semolina, sugar, and saffron), chiroti and Mysore pak are among the favorite sweets in Karnataka. However, the most delicious is the obbattu or holigea-flat, thin, wafer-like chappati filled with a mixture of jaggery, coconut and sugar and fried gently on a skillet. Along with payasa (south Indian kheer), obbattu is always served with celebratory meals in Karnataka. Other delectable sweets that come out of the Kannada kitchen are the shavige payasa made of vermicelli and sugar, hesaru bele made with green gram dal, and baadami hallu, which is crushed almonds mixed with milk, sugar and saffron.

Arts & Culture of Karnataka

The majority of Kannadigas are of Dravidian origin. Dravidians were the original inhabitants of Indian subcontinent and in Vedic literature they have been mentioned as Dasyus and Rakshasas, the people who had black skin and were opposed to the Aryans. The Aryans, with their better war technology (they were the first race who brought to India horses and iron), defeated the original inhabitants of the land and forced them to convert to Hinduism. Many of them left the plains of North India and moved towards the south to inhabit the Indian Peninsula. Karnataka is a part of the Indian Peninsula and the people of this land speak a language that has its roots in the Dravidian languages. The religion of most of the people is Hinduism with a small population of Muslims.

Food of Karnataka

site of the hydel projects. All these rivers are west flowing and some of them are torrential streams, which are in full flow in the monsoon. Most of the major rivers of the state have their origin in the Ghats and flow eastwards towards the Bay of Bengal, through Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu. Krishna with its tributaries like the Bhima and Ghataprabha and Tungabhadra is among these mighty rivers. The Kaveri river in the southern part of the state, which has its origin on Brahma Giri in Coorg, with its tributaries like the Shimsha, Hemavati, Kapila and others enters Tamil Nadu and is a major source of irrigation both in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The rivers Polar and Pennar in the eastern parts of the state are among the other important rivers.

Karnataka meal has many delicacies like kosambari, a salad made of the broken halves of the soaked green moong dal (lentil) minus its skin, spiced with salt, green chili and mustard seed (oggarane) and mixed with tiny scrapings of coconut, cucumber and carrot and dressed with a little lime juice. Other popular Karnataka specialties are bisi bele huli anna - created out of rice, dal, tamarind, chili powder, and cinnamon, gojju - a vegetable, most popularly bitter gourd, cooked in tamarind juice and jaggery with chili powder in it, chitranna - rice with the juice of lime, green chili and turmeric powder and sprinkled with fried groundnuts and coriander leaves, and majjige huli with tove - vegetables in a buttermilk base. Kesari



In Karnataka, as in the rest of India, a very thin line divides 'art' and 'craft'. And this is manifest in every home in the state where even the mundane articles of daily use, including an earthen pot, resemble a work of art. Karnataka has come to occupy pride of place in the country in the field of woodcarving. The state's relatively good forest cover provides enough raw material for its craftsmen who continue to employ age-old techniques to carve, inlay, veneer, paint and lacquer articles in wood. 'Mysore silk' is famous and Karnataka has contributed a great deal to the progress of India's silk industry. It has also helped the country to overtake Japan, after China, in the production of mulberry silk.

Dance & Music of Karnataka

Music of the Carnatic style really developed after the impetus given by Vidyaranya and the royal patronage of the Vijayanagar Empire. After a period when it was sidelined, Haidar Ali and Tipu, during their reign, showed



special interest in Carnatic music and musicians. Later, the Wodeyars, and especially Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, gave valuable support and encouragement to the tradition.

Festivals of Karnataka

True to its colorful heritage, Karnataka has an array of festivals that add life, gaiety, and color to mundane activities. The Paryaya Festival of the Krishna

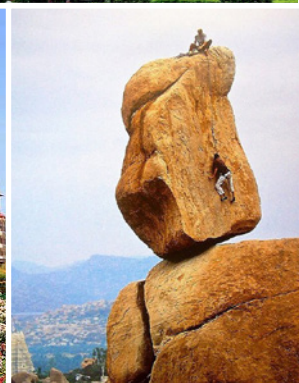
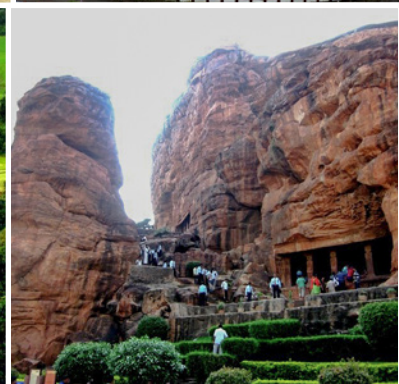
temple at Udupi, held biennially in January, marks the ceremonious handing over of the charge of the shrine to one of the eight religious orders of the Madhwacharya's spiritual descendants in rotation for a two-year term. The Karaga

Festival, peculiar to Bangalore, is a quaint celebration of goddess Shakti invoked in the earthen pot from which the festival derives its name. This pot, heavily bedecked with flowers, is borne by a man who observes severe penance for several days before the festival. Dressed as a woman in saffron, sword in hand and wearing the mangalsutra (necklace) of his wife, the karaga bearer precariously balances this pot on his head to set out from the Dharamaraya Temple on the day of the Chaitra Purnima in April. Dussehra, a ten-day festival in September-October is symbolic of the triumph of good over evil. The city of Mysore is transformed into a fairyland of illuminated places, gaily-festooned streets and arches. The celebrations are marked by cultural programs, exhibitions, classical music festivals, torchlight processions, culminating with a grand procession on the tenth day headed by a gaily caparisoned elephant bearing a golden howdah with a deity.



Karnataka - Quick Facts

Geographical Area	191,791 square km (74,051 sq. mi)
Length	750 km (North to South)
Coastline Length	320 km
Districts	30
Capital	Bengaluru
Population (as per Census 2011)	6.11 Crores
Population Density	319 per sq. km
Rural Population	61.43%
Urban Population	38.57%
Literacy Rate	75.40%
Official language	Kannada
Climate	Semi-tropical
Rainfall	500 mm to more than 4,000 mm
Geographical Regions	Karavalli, the Coastal Plains; Sahyadris, the Western Ghats and Bayalu Seeme, the Deccan Plateau
Rivers	Cauvery, Kabini, Krishna and Tungabhadra
Total Forest Area	43,356.47 sq. km
Forest Types	Evergreen and Semi-evergreen, Moist Deciduous, Dry Deciduous, Scrub and Thorny forest, Un-wooded forest
Total Road Length	231,997 km
Total Railway Track	3,089 km
Metro Railway	2 Operational Lines in Bengaluru
Ports	11 ports
Airports	2 international airports, 13 domestic/ regional airports and 15 small airports
Cultivated Land	123,100 sq. km
Major Crops	Ragi, paddy, sugarcane, maize, jowar, bajra, coconut, groundnuts, coffee, cotton, sunflower
Important Crop Exports	Coffee, Tea, Mango
Traditional Products	Coffee, silk, sandalwood, incense sticks, ivory carvings, inlay work, lacquer ware
Major Minerals	Gold, magnesite, bauxite, iron ore, manganese, limestone, granite
Prime Industries	Agro & Food processing, Automotive & Aerospace, Education, Electronics, IT & ITeS, Machine Tools, Mining & Minerals, Energy, Textile
Premier Educational Centres	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, National Institute of Technology Surathkal, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Indian Institute of Science
Major cities	Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Hubli-Dharwad, Mysore, Belgaum



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Hampi

Hampi, also referred to as the Group of Monuments at Hampi, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in east-central Karnataka, India. It's dotted with numerous ruined temple complexes from the Vijayanagara Empire. On the south bank of the River Tungabhadra is the 7th-century Hindu Virupaksha Temple, near the revived Hampi Bazaar. A carved stone chariot stands in front of the huge Vittala Temple site.

