



EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI

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(LATEST NEWS ON INDIA AND
INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)



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PM witnesses the historic Commencement of Core Loading at India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor



In a historic milestone marking entry into the vital second stage of India's three-stage nuclear program, on 4 March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the commencement of "Core Loading" (fueling) at India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

The Indian Government approved the creation of Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) in 2003 to construct and operate India's most advanced nuclear reactor-Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR). In line with the true spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, PFBR has been fully designed and constructed indigenously by BHAVINI with significant contributions from more than 200 Indian industries including MSMEs. Once commissioned, India will only be the second country after Russia to have a commercial-operating Fast Breeder Reactor.

The growth of the Indian nuclear power program is imperative to meet the twin goals of energy security and sustainable development. As a responsible nuclear power with advanced technology, India remains committed to expand peaceful applications of nuclear technology, both in power and non-power sector, while ensuring the security of nuclear and radiological materials.

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Quarterly Estimates of GDP for Q3 of 2023-24

According to the Quarterly Estimates of GDP for Q3 of 2023-24 of the National Statistical Office (NSO), India registered an impressive GDP growth of 8.4% in the third quarter of Financial year 2023-24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that it shows the strength of the Indian economy and its potential. He also reiterated that India's efforts will continue to bring fast economic growth which shall help 1.4 billion Indians lead a better life and create a Viksit Bharat.

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Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

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Defence exports touch record Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24

“ IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, INDIA HAS DEVELOPED ITS OWN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. ”

India has built its own aircraft carriers, C295 transport aircraft are being built in India. Modern engines are also going to be manufactured in India



Defence exports have touched a record Rs 21,083 crore (~US\$ 2.63 Billion) in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, a growth of 32.5% over the last fiscal. The recent figures indicate that the defence exports have grown 31 times in the last 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14.

The defence Industry, including the private sector and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), have made tremendous efforts in achieving the highest-ever defence exports. The private sector and the DPSUs have contributed about 60% and 40% respectively. In addition, there has been a rise in the number of export authorisations issued to the defence exporters during FY 2023-24.

The remarkable growth has been achieved due to the policy reforms and 'Ease of Doing Business' initiatives brought in by the Government, in addition to the end-to-end digital solution provided to the Indian industries for promoting defence exports. This growth reflects the global acceptability of Indian defence products and technologies.

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Unprecedented anti-piracy operation by Indian Navy



INS Kolkata, mission-deployed in the Arabian Sea, through the sustained high tempo of operations lasting over 40hrs, has thwarted the designs of the Somali pirates to hijack ships transiting through the region by intercepting the pirate ship MV Ruen, on 16 March. The merchant vessel had been hijacked in December 2023 and was under the control of the Somalian Pirates till now.

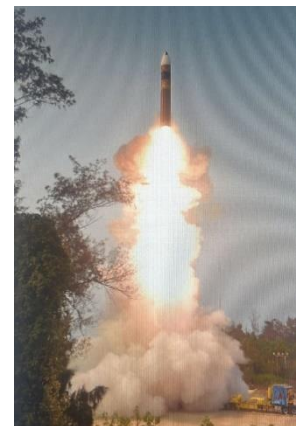
Indian Navy as part of the Maritime Security Operations has been carrying out extensive surveillance in the region including monitoring of traffic in Areas of Interest. INS Kolkata undertook precisely measured actions while maintaining her position close to the Pirate Ship and also engaged in forceful negotiations, which resulted in the Pirates surrendering and releasing the pirate ship MV Ruen and its original crew present onboard.

The culmination of the ongoing Anti-Piracy operation involving pirate ship Ruen in the Southern IOR highlights the commitment of the Indian Navy towards reinforcing peace and stability, and also to thwart the resurgence of Piracy in the region. The Indian Navy remains steadfast in performing its role as the 'First Responder' in IOR.

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DRDO successfully conducts Mission Divyastra

On 11 March, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted first successful flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. The flight test named Mission Divyastra was carried out from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. Various Telemetry and radar stations tracked and monitored multiple re-entry vehicles. The Mission accomplished the designed parameters.



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INCREDIBLE
INDIA

o **Vadodara –
Cultural capital
of Gujarat**

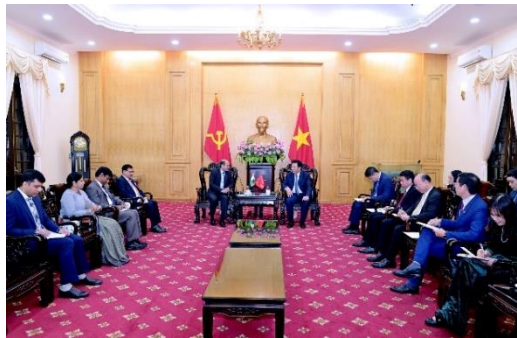
DRDO successfully flight tests Very Short Range Air Defence System

DRDO conducted two successful flight tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile on 28th & 29th Feb from a ground-based portable launcher off the coast of Odisha from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. These tests were carried out against high speed unmanned aerial targets under different interception scenarios. During all the test flights, the targets were intercepted and destroyed by the missiles, meeting the mission objectives.

VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners. VSHORADAS missile incorporates many novel technologies including miniaturized Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics which have been successfully proven during the tests.

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BILATERAL CORNER



Enhancing India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Ambassador discussed with H. E. Dr. Nguyen Xuan Thang, Politburo Member, Chairman of Party's Theoretical Council, President of the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics today further scholarly exchanges, academic cooperation, including Indian studies towards enhancing India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Pratibha Kala Kendra Takes Center Stage in Vietnam



Indian folk dances' scintillating performance by Pratibha Kala Kendra group drew warm applause from students of Ha Noi University of Science and Technology and community members on 27 March. The troupe also presented Holi and other dances at Ha Nam, Thai Nguyen, Lao Cai & Yen Bai. Their performances showcased a kaleidoscope of Indian culture, featuring a diverse range of folk dances from different regions of the country, most prominently from the Braj region. Their tour aimed to not only showcase the rich heritage of Indian folk dance but also promote cultural understanding and strengthen the bond between India and Vietnam.

Exploring cooperation opportunities in education

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore held useful exchanges with Viet Nam National University, University of Transport Technology, Hanoi University of Science & Technology and others in Vietnam during the second week of this week to pursue educational and academic exchanges with respective institutions.



INDIA
PERSPECTIVES
TAKING INDIA TO THE WORLD



Announcement of ICCR Scholarship

Registration for India's ICCR Scholarships for academic year 2024-25 for Undergraduate/Postgraduate/PhD studies in India is open until 30 April 2024.

Limited number of seats are available for Vietnamese candidates.

Apply at:

<http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/>

Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar visits Vietnam

Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar addressed an evening of culture, music, wisdom and meditation on 21 March at the Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Palace in Hanoi together with India-Viet Nam cultural exchange and presence of over 1000 members of the community and friends of India.



India - Viet Nam Business Meet on banking services

India - Viet Nam Business Meet on banking services discussed banking and financial facilities for trade, projects and business with participation of over 100 members and representatives of the Bank of India - Ho Chi Minh City, State Bank of India (Manila office) and EXIM Bank of India (Mumbai).

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Community-level projects in Viet Nam strengthen people-to-people ties

On 25 March, new classrooms & other facilities were inaugurated at Hoa Phuong Kindergarten, Tho Son (Bu Dang) in Binh Phouc province sponsored by Government of India under Mekong Ganga Cooperation.



National Centre for Coastal Research delegation visits Viet Nam

In the third week of March, India's National Centre for Coastal Research and Viet Nam Agency of Seas & Islands held bilateral interaction and field visits relating to scientific collaboration on coastal erosion and marine ecology experiences and practices between the two countries.

INCREDIBLE INDIA

Vadodara – Cultural capital of Gujarat



Speckled with gorgeous palaces, grand monuments and historical temples, the ancient city of Vadodara (earlier Baroda) is stretched along the banks of the Vishwamitri River. Vadodara is popularly recognised as the cultural capital of Gujarat and is believed to be the third-largest city in the state. It is renowned for the [Statue of Unity](#), the world's tallest statue.

Vadodara was originally called Vadapradaka, meaning a village amidst banyan trees. That human habitation reached here during the prehistoric times is evident from the archaeological findings.

Tourists would also be delighted by the UNESCO World Heritage Site of [Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park](#), which is a well-preserved Islamic pre-Mughal city. With a large number of Hindu and Jain temples as well as mosques, most of which were constructed during the time of the Gujarat Sultanate, the city has a lot to boast. From step wells, cemeteries, granaries and fortification walls, it is clearly evident that a well-planned town once existed here.

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