High Commissioner’s Message

Dear Friends,

Through this newsletter, I am reaching out to you to give details of this High Commission’s activities and the news from India that may be of interest to you all. The newsletter also has a career where India’s development stories will be included. The letter will also have details of India’s initiatives in development partnership with Malawi. There is also a part where you will find the business inquiries from India on supply of various products and services.

During this difficult time of pandemic, it is all the more important for us to take necessary precautions and work together for developing the economy.

With my very best wishes to you all,

Anurag Bhushan

High Commissioner Calls On His Excellency the President and Right Honourable Vice President of Malawi

High Commissioner met HE the President of Malawi on 23 July 2020 and Rt. Honourable Vice President of Malawi on 24 July 2020. During these meetings High Commissioner briefed the Malawi leaders about the cordial bilateral relations between two countries and Indian initiatives in the development partnership with Malawi.

NEWS FROM MALAWI

Gifting Of Secondary School Text Books, India-made Ambulances, and Medicines

During the visit of the Honourable Vice President of India to Malawi in November 2018, it was announced to gift 10 India-made ambulances, 100,000 secondary school text books, and essential medicines worth US $2 mn to Government of Malawi. In separate ceremonies, High Commissioner, H.E. Anurag Bhushan presented 10 India-made Ambulances to Honourable Minister of Health and Population on 12 February 2020. The books were received by the Honourable Minister of Education on 7 February 2020.

NEWS FROM INDIA

National Education Policy 2020

- Cabinet approves National Education Policy 2020, paving way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country.
- New Policy aims for Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% GER in school education by 2030. GER in higher education to be raised to 50% by 2035.
- NEP 2020 will bring back 2 Crores out of school children into the mainstream and add 3.5 crore seats in higher education.
- New 5+3+4 school curriculum with 12 years of schooling and 3 years of Anganwadi pre-schooling.
- Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no hard separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in school. Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships.
- Assessment reforms with 360 degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes.
- Higher Education curriculum to have Flexibility of subjects. Multiple Entry / Exit, and transfer of credit through an Academic Bank of Credits.
- Affiliation System to be phased out in 15 years with graded autonomy to colleges.
- Light but Tight Regulation of Higher education, single regulator with four separate verticals for different functions.
- National Research Foundation to be established to foster a strong research culture.
- NEP 2020 advocates increased use of technology with equity; National Educational Technology Forum to be created.
- New Policy promotes Multilingualism in both schools and HEIs; Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/ regional language; National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up.
- NEP 2020 emphasizes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.

Passport Sewa Divas 2020

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) celebrated Passport Seva Divas (PSD) on 24 June, 2020, to commemorate the enactment of the Passports Act on 24 June, 1967. A Special Event was organized by MEA to mark this occasion at which Hon’ble External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar and Hon’ble Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan addressed the Passport Officers through video conferencing. In his keynote Address, EAM noted that there had been a complete transformation in the passport delivery system during the last six years of the present Government. More than 1.22 crore passports were issued during 2019 by the Passport Issuing Authorities (PIA) in India and abroad. The total number of Passport Kendras functioning in the country is 517, comprising of 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) and 424 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK). He mentioned that the focus of MEA would be to further strengthen the outreach efforts to take passport services closer to the people by opening more POPSKs in the country. As a part of the global outreach exercise, MEA has integrated the passport issuance systems in 70 Missions and Posts abroad issuing more than 95 per cent of the passports abroad. He reiterated that efforts must continue to further simplify the rules and processes of making passports. Further, steps must be taken to leverage the use of modern technology. Initiatives such as mPassport Police and mPassport Seva Apps had led to improvements in systems and customer satisfaction. The production of ePassports would be another important step in this regard.

Atmanirbhar Bharat

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the Atma-nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for Self-reliant India Mission and economic package—worth Rs 20 lakh crore or 10% of India’s GDP in 2019-20 – aimed towards achieving this mission. PM reiterated that a self-reliant India would stand on five pillars viz.
1) Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change
2) Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India
3) System, based on 21st-century technology-driven arrangements
4) Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India and
5) Demand, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity

High Commission of India in Malawi has arranged two special charter flights with support of diaspora on 11 June and 4 August 2020 for stranded Indian citizens to return to India.
August 2020

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA-LILONGWE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launches Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan

The programme was launched on 20th June 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. Abhiyan focuses on rural infrastructure and providing modern facilities like internet in the rural areas.

Skill Mapping of the rural migrant labour being done to help them work closer home. Its 50,000 Crore work project to be implemented in a mission mode campaign in 125 days in 116 Districts of 6 States.

Cabinet Approves Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility Under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to a new pan India Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility Under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. The scheme shall provide a medium - long term credit facility for the empanelment of viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Under the scheme, Rs. One Lakh

India During COVID and Beyond

Country went early action to combat coronavirus. Starting with travel restrictions last January, a lockdown was implemented in early February and travel ban in mid March, India moved into a nationwide lockdown. For a month.

The high value attached to human life shaped our approach.

India continues to remain in touch with friends and partners across the world about the handling of pandemic. Prime Minister of India has been in constant touch with Chief Ministers of other nations in the country to control the spread of this pandemic. Prime Minister has been interacting with the world leaders to discuss the ways to fight this pandemic. The Indian Government has promptly responded to requests for deployment of Rapid Response Teams comprising doctors, nurses and paramedics. Indian RRTs have been deployed in Maldives and Kuwait at the request of their governments. India has taken a number of medical and supply missions across the world.

The issue of India's stranded abroad, a matter of great concern, has been promptly addressed by the Government. Close to 1 Million stranded Indians in over 140 countries and 120 nations overseas have been in touch with the Embassies of India. Many countries have been helping Indian nationals in distress. India has also been providing consular assistance to Indian nationals in distress. The Government has facilitated the repatriation of over 200,000 Indians so far. The Government has also been providing consular assistance to Indian nationals in distress. The Government has facilitated the repatriation of over 200,000 Indians so far. The Government has also been providing consular assistance to Indian nationals in distress. The Government has facilitated the repatriation of over 200,000 Indians so far.

India Takes Measures to Revive Economy

The world economies have been affected very badly by the lockdowns. The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 will last much longer than the pandemic itself. The lockdown-induced disruptions, roadblocks, travel restrictions, social distancing have resulted in slowing down our economic activity, across the globe. The lockdowns have impacted the global supply chains. Many global supply chains have been disrupted. As External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar noted: “The free market economy has been disrupted. A strong economy needs a strong market. A strong market needs a strong economy.”

India is today a critical source of trusted talent and competitive skills for the global economy. The idea behind self-reliance or Atmanirbharta is to ensure that India can emerge as the global nerve center of the complex modern economy in the years to come. India's economy is the fifth largest in the world, with a strong manufacturing base. The country has a strong competitive advantage in the areas of IT, pharmaceuticals, aerospace and defence.

Mental strength

The COVID-19 pandemic has not just affected us physically but has also led to high levels of psychological distress leading to depression, stress, and severe anxiety. It is a well-known fact that increased anxiety leads to decreased immunity in our body, making it susceptible to various diseases, including an increased risk of viral respiratory tract infections, which is one of the major risk factors for the disease. The fight against COVID-19 has been a collective effort by all the states and the central government to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. The efforts are being recognized and appreciated throughout the world.

The Natural Doctrine

India is one of the few countries where multiple recognised systems of traditional medicine are practised. These alternative systems are strongly connected with nature, medicines and thanks to government support, these ancient philosophies are thriving. Dr Sanjaya Rustagi explained that all these interventional and natural systems may be a viable solution for a healthier and stronger nation. The global community has exposed the world for all its strengths and weaknesses in a single stroke and has brought into focus the importance of strengthening the body’s natural defence system. With the support of the government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, traditional medicines, especially Ayurveda, are seeing a new growth in popularity and relevance. The government has announced innovative clinical drug trials to evaluate the safe and effective use of selected Ayurvedic medicines in the treatment of COVID-19, making this one of the first examples when modern and traditional medical experts are working together to find a solution. The Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) has also released a series of advisories for the general public on the use of several well-known Ayurvedic formulations in home isolation therapy to combat the disease.

The Ayurvedic Assist

Another ancient science, Ayurveda, explores the concept of disease prevention by promoting a novel concept of ‘prakriti vigilance’. This is agnostic to the perceiving environment and finding it unfavorable to the growth of microbes, in reference to microbial infections and infections. Due to the ubiquitous presence of microbes all around us, there is a continuous search for the microbes by the microbes for suitable hosts that may allow the pathogens access and to flourish by providing them entry and substrates to feed upon. Ayurvedic herbal recommendations of malath (Liquorice), glycy (Tinospora Cordifolia); often referred to as the ‘eternal source of life’ owing to its immense medicinal and immunity-booster properties, and ashwagandha (Indian ginseng or winter cherries) set an apt example in the case. These herbs act optimally at multiple levels preventing the entry of the virus by blocking the receptors and also by halting its proliferation by inhibiting the enzymes needed for it. In an advisory released early in 2020, the Ministry of Ayush recommended some Ayurvedic medicines as “prophylactic measures”/immunomodulatory drugs as per the Ayurvedic practices” to treat COVID-19 patients. While the Ministry proposes consultations with Ayurveda practitioners, the medicine Ayush, said, can help to ‘strengthen the immune system’. Gujarat and Kerala have administered alternative medicines to infected patients as immunity and strength boosters. Kerala has also set up Ayur Raksha clinics at district levels to provide preventative medicines, improve immunity and provide other health support.

Sambhita: Siddha sensibilities

- Practiced largely across Southern India, the Siddha system is one of the earliest traditional medicine systems in the world.
- According to the doctrines that have been preserved and passed down through the generations, practitioners (called siddhars) stress on holistic treatment of both the spiritual and physical self.
- Siddha medicine is claimed to revitalise and rejuvenate dysfunctional organs that cause a disease. Kayakarpana (a special combination of medicine and lifestyle), varnum therapy (based on activating pressure points, vaasi (Pranaayama) and nuppo, a special salt (made from three regional rock salts and minerals) are the specialties of this system of medicine.

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