74th Independence Day of India

Address to the nation by the Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind on the eve of Independence Day [Video]

PM Narendra Modi unfurls the tricolor at Red Fort [Video]

Statement by the Canadian prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau on India’s Independence Day 2020. For full statement [click]

Hon. Premier Doug Ford wishes Indo-Canadians on the occasion of India’s Independence Day. [Video]

Highlights of flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of 74th Independence Day of India at India house, Ottawa

Reading of Presidents message by Indian High Commissioner Mr. Ajay Bisaria. [Click here]
High Commission of India, Ottawa celebrated #74thIndependenceDay High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria unfurled the national flag and read out President’s address. Due to ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, the flag hoisting ceremony was restricted to the members of the High Commission. Facebook live streaming was made available on Mission’s Facebook page.

High Commission of India teamed with Thali Restaurant and Food for Thought Net Cafe to share meals with folks in shelter homes impacted by COVID. Mayor Jim Watson & Member of Parliament Chandra Arya joined the event. Continue reading

NEWS ROUND-UP

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lays foundation for Ayodhya Ram Temple

Speaking in Ayodhya, after the Bhoomi Pujan of Ram Temple, Prime Minister Modi mentioned about several nations, where Ram is revered. He said that influence of Ram is global and a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya would showcase the rich heritage of Indian culture to the world. The Hindu community in Canada rejoices as construction of glorious Ram temple begins in Ayodhya. For video, click here

Inauguration of cable connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands by the PM Shri Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 10, 2020 launched and dedicated to the nation, the submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the mainland through video conferencing. The foundation stone for this project was laid by the PM on 30th December 2018 at Port Blair. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the connectivity would now enable endless opportunities in the islands. For complete press release click here
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 13, 2020, launched a platform for “Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest” on through video conferencing. Speaking on the occasion he said that the process of Structural Reforms in the country has reached new heights. The Prime Minister said the platform of “Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest, has been launched to meet the requirements of the 21st century taxation system. He elaborated that the platform has major reforms like Faceless Assessment, Faceless Appeal and Taxpayers Charter. [Click here](#) for Press Release.

India is a constructive, dependable actor globally, writes Harsh Vardhan Shringla

India is a constructive, dependable actor globally, writes Harsh Vardhan Shringla. Through the pandemic, it has not only met its domestic requirements but taken range of steps for global good. As a responsible stakeholder in global health supply chains, India ensured timely access to essential drugs and medical items for over 150 countries, while meeting our own domestic requirements. [Click here](#) to read complete article.

Hon. Minister Anurag Thakur keynote speaker in CIF Webinar Speaker Series

Canada India Foundation organised a webinar with Hon. Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Government of India on Saturday, August 29, 2020. Hn. Anurag Thakur was the Keynote Speaker. The topic of the webinar was, Canada-India: Future Together. India-Canada bilateral relations and role of Indian diaspora in strengthening bilateral relationship between two democracies was discussed.

High Commission of India
Ottawa

Readout by the Ministry of External Affairs’ Official Spokesperson on India-China LAC Issue

As you know last week, the 18th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) took place. During the meeting the two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the existing situation in the India-China border areas. Both sides have reaffirmed that the two sides will continue to sincerely work towards complete disengagement of the troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector in accordance with the agreements reached between the two Foreign Ministers and the two Special Representatives (SRs) during their conversation on 5th July.

As spokesperson had conveyed earlier, complete disengagement requires re-deployment of troops by each side towards their regular posts on their respective sides of the LAC. It is natural that this can be done only through mutually agreed reciprocal actions. Thus it is important to bear in mind that achieving this requires agreed actions by both sides. [Continue reading](#)
INDIA’S DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

India providing urgent medical care to 150 Maldivian patients

Over 150 Maldivian patients & their medical attendants have been granted special exemption in the last month to travel to India for urgent medical treatment. These special arrangements were made by India for Maldivian patients requiring urgent advanced medical care.

India gifted 7000 kilograms of high-quality medicines including HCQs and Paracetamol tablets to Senegal

India gifted 7000 kilograms of high-quality medicines including HCQs and paracetamol tablets to Senegal on 4 August 2020. India has been helping countries with medical supplies during ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. India has been providing support to the countries around the world.

India delivered 58 MT of Humanitarian aid to the people of Lebanon in wake of Beirut blast

On August 14, 2020, India delivered 58 MT of Humanitarian Aid to the people of Lebanon to assist relief efforts in wake of the tragic Beirut blast. Aid was delivered by Indian Air Force C-17 planes. The aid contains crucial medical supplies for handling immediate aftermath of the trauma and other illnesses. Food aid includes wheat flour, sugar and lentils. The aid also contains other relief supplies like blankets and mattresses which are required in light of large number of people being rendered homeless. India has been standing with Beirut since the tragic blast on August 04, 2020.

Government of India handed over 36 vehicles to Uganda Defence Forces

Government of India remains committed to supporting African countries in their economic development and capacity building. A total number of 36 vehicles including 10 buses, 10 troop carriers, 2 ambulances and 14 motorcycles have been handed over on August 24, 2020 to Government of Uganda.
On August 06, 2020 High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria addressed the Annual Research Conference of IC-IMPACTS. Participants in the conference included Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary (DST), Prof. Renu Swarup, Secretary (DBT), Prof. Alejandro Adem, President, Natural Science & Engineering Research Council of Canada, besides Prof. Nemy Banthia, CEO & Mr. Barj Dhahan, Board Chair of the Centre. Safe and Sustainable Infrastructure, Integrated Water Management and Public Health are the three core themes of the Centre.

High Commissioner had an engaging conversation with Hon. Ms. Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services of Canada. They discussed range of issues including air bubble, global supply chains, medicines from India. She is also working closely on COVID vaccine. She is the first female Hindu MP and Minister.

As part of 9th Edition of their annual festival, The Great India Festival (TGIF) organised a panel discussion on Post COVID Pandemic World on August 08, 2020. High Commissioner Mr. Ajay Bisaria was one of the main panelists. The other panelist was Mr. Michel Gauthier, Chair, World Tulip Summit Society and Prof. Rao Nanduri was the moderator for the discussion. The Festival also featured special documentaries received from ICCR showcasing Indian culture and historical figures.

During the virtual interaction of High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria with Air Canada CEO Mr. Calin Rovinescu on August 24, discussions were held on topics ranging from air bubble agreement and flights in place between India and Canada, challenges of visa and quarantine regimes, supply and demand shocks faced by airlines and opportunities for recovery in coming months.

High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria was a panelist on Global Presence of Ayurveda during Namaste 2020, Global Utsav for Indian Soft Power which had panelist from Hungary, Germany and Switzerland and Chair for the panel was VC, SVYASA India. HC remarked that Ayurveda is widely recognised and embraced in Canada but regulatory systems are behind the curve in making its benefits available. Watch here
ARTS & CULTURE

Ganesh Chaturthi

The spectacular 11-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival honors the birth of the beloved Hindu elephant-headed god, Lord Ganesha. The start of the festival sees huge, elaborately crafted statutes of Ganesh installed in homes and podiums, which have been specially constructed and beautifully decorated. At the end of the festival, the statues are paraded through the streets, accompanied by much singing and dancing, and then submerged in the ocean.

When: August 22 to September 1, 2020; Where: Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh

Source: https://www.tripsavvy.com/august-india-festivals-and-events-1539398

Naya Sur Humara – re-creation of the legendary song Mile Sur Mera Tumhara

Naya Sur Hamara - Re-Creation of the legendary Indian Song Mile Sur Mera Tumhara is a passionate Music Project by a group of Global Indians to recreate this legendary song with re-imagined visuals and messages relevant to current times. Two Indo-Canadian singers are also part of the collaboration - Ms. Sandhya Parthasarathy and Ms. Shradha Ganesh. To listen click here

EDUCATION

National Education Policy 2020

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India recently, outlines the vision of India’s new education system. The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986. The policy is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. India will be promoted as a global study destination providing premium education at affordable costs. For full text of NEP 2020 click here
High Commissioner Mr. Ajay Bisaria had an engaging conversation with Mr. Peter Dhillon, Chairman of Ocean Spray Inc. and Cranberry Czar of Canada on August 10, 2020. They discussed collaboration opportunities in food processing, agriculture and agri-tech.

Defence Ministry announces import ban on 101 items – a big boost to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat

The Defence Ministry has announced an import ban on 101 items in the defence sector, which is a significant step towards achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing. This move will not only boost the domestic defence industry but also create jobs and enhance the country's economic self-sufficiency.

The items to be imported include artillery guns, assault rifles, sonar systems, transport aircrafts, light combat helicopters, and more. The list was compiled after an evaluation of the country's defence requirements and the availability of domestic manufacturing capabilities. The items will be replaced by domestic production over the next 5 to 7 years, with contracts worth ₹4 lakh crore to be placed on domestic manufacturers.

PM Narendra Modi convenes meeting to discuss ways to boost toys manufacturing in India

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a meeting on August 22 with senior Ministers and officials to discuss ways to boost manufacturing and the global imprint of Indian toys. Prime Minister said India is home to several toy clusters and thousands of artisans who produce indigenous toys which not only have cultural connect but also help in building life-skills and psychomotor skills among children at an early age. He said such clusters should be promoted through innovative and creative methods.

Read more
COMMUNITY VIBES

Celebration of Award of Governor General’s MSM to the Bhargavas

High Commissioner joined MP Chandra Arya and several other dignitaries and friends of Mrs. Uttra Bhargava and Mr. Subhas Bhargava at a virtual facilitation ceremony organized by the Indo-Canadian Community Centre (ICCC) to celebrate the Award of Governor General’s Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) to the Bhargavas. While congratulation them on their achievement the High Commissioner said that they are an inspiration to the Indo-Canadian community and a gift of India to Canada.

High Commissioner’s Certificate of Recognition for Community Service

On the occasion of India’s 74th Independence Day, HCI announced the names of the recipients of High Commissioner’s Certificate of Recognition for Community service. The following 15 organisations and individuals were recognised for displaying exemplary dedication and commitment to the service of Indians, including students, in Canada, Indo-Canadian community and the Canadian society at large in the early stages of COVID-19 pandemic:

- Lachine Auto Service, Montreal
- Ram Sweet Shop, Montreal
- Food for Thought Café, Ottawa
- Mr. Joe Thottungal Ottawa
- Indo-Canadian Community Centre, Ottawa
- Canadian Association of Students from India, Ottawa
- Langar for Hunger, Ottawa
- Mr. Siddharth Choudhary, Vancouver
- Khalsa Diwan Society, Vancouver
- ICA of Saskatchewan, Regina
- Chetna Association of Canada, Vancouver
- Guru Nanak Food Sewa, Toronto
- Sewa Canada International Aid INC., Toronto
- Sai Dham Canada, Toronto
- Punjabi Food Sewa, Toronto

ADVISORIES

Additional 56 flights under Vande Bharat Mission Phase VI has been scheduled from Canada (Toronto & Vancouver) for the month of September and October 2020. For schedule of flights, click here

Advisory relating to travel and visa restrictions for availing air flights under bilateral air travel arrangements (‘air bubble’ scheme) and ‘Vande Bharat Mission’ flights between India and Canada. Read here

Latest Advisory from Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs on Travel and Visa Restrictions Related to Covid-19. Read here

Beware about Scam Telephone Calls. See our advisory here