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We are
**CHALLENGING
OURSELVES,**
We are
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PM Modi at 'Healthy Mind & Good Food' in Houston, USA
22th September 2019



“
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Aiming High,
We are
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यहां से हमें अपने मन के सारे अंतर्निहित गुण, सारे विचारों में निहित वे World Parliament of Religions के सौंदर्य विरासत को एक साथ मिलाना है। ये संदेश था- "Harmony and Peace and not Dissension".
हमारे के सबसे बड़े संघर्षों को, हमें भी अंतर्निहित सत्य के लिए वहीं संदेश है- Harmony and Peace.

संवाद के सत्रों का आयोजन भारत के अंतरिक्ष में होगा, 22 सेप्टेम्बर 2019

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Prime Minister's Visit to United Nation General Assembly (UNGA), New York, September 2019



United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York on 23 September 2019

1.1 During the Climate Action Summit, Prime Minister of India underlined that global actions to tackle climate change are not enough. He called for a comprehensive approach which places emphasis on education, values, lifestyle & developmental philosophy and underlined India's effort in following areas:

- Increasing renewable energy capacity to much beyond 175 GW by 2022, and later till 450 GW.

- Planning to make Indian transport sector green through e-mobility.
- Planning to considerably increase the proportion of the biofuel blend in petrol and diesel.
- India has provided clean cooking gas to 150 million families.
- India has launched the Jal Jeevan mission for water conservation, rainwater harvesting and for the development of water resources. India is going to spend approximately 50 billion dollars on this in the next few years.
- In order to make infrastructure disaster resilient, India is launching a Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- India has launched International Solar Alliance (ISA) campaign. Almost 80 countries have joined so far.
- A people's movement to end the use of single use plastic.

UNGA meeting on Universal Health Coverage

1.2 Prime Minister on 23 September 2019 spoke at the first-ever UNGA high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage. Prime Minister in his remarks highlighted the following steps taken by India to achieve Universal Health Coverage:

- Holistic approach. Four main pillars of healthcare:
 - Preventive Healthcare
 - Affordable Healthcare
 - Improvements on the supply side
 - Implementation in mission mode
- Special emphasis on Yoga, Ayurveda and Fitness and building more than 125,000 wellness centers to promote preventive healthcare
- Banning of e-cigarettes, greater

awareness through Clean India campaign and immunization campaigns

- To ensure affordable healthcare, India has rolled out the world's largest health insurance scheme- Ayushman Bharat. Under this scheme, 500 million poor have been given the facility of free treatment worth up to 500,000 rupees annually (more than USD\$7000).
- National Nutrition Mission to improve nutritional status of mother and child and India's commitment to eliminate Tuberculosis by 2025 five years ahead of the global goal 2030



150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at United Nations

1.3 To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister was joined by other leaders to inaugurate the Gandhi Solar Park at the UN Headquarters (gifted by Government of India to the UN), the Gandhi Peace Garden at State University of New York College at Old Westbury and unveiled the special commemorative edition of the Gandhi@150 Postage Stamps brought out by the UN Postal Administration.



Global Goalkeepers Award

1.4 Prime Minister of India was conferred the prestigious Global Goalkeepers Award by Gates foundation for his role as a catalyst in implementing the largest, most complex sanitation intervention in India through Swachh Bharat Mission.



4th Indo-German Business Dialogue



The fourth Indo-German Business Dialogue was held on 11 September 2019 at the Embassy of India, Berlin. The annual event being held since 2016, co-hosted by German Parliamentarian Mr. Mark Hauptmann and Embassy of India, Berlin, has emerged as a high-level economic platform to encourage and facilitate partnerships between the Indian and German industries and foster and exchange new ideas.

2.2 This year, the Dialogue was attended by Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Lok Sabha, Mr. Christian Hirte, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi), Mr. Ralph Brinkhaus, Parliamentary Faction Leader of the ruling CDU/CSU Parties in the German Bundestag and Deputy Chair of the India-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Mr. Markus Koob, Member of Parliament and Rapporteur for India in the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee. Over 200 representatives of German industry, Chambers of Commerce, academia, think tanks and policy makers, were also present at the Business Dialogue.

2.3 Ambassador of India, Mrs. Mukta Dutta Tomar encouraged businesses to

capitalise on the opportunities offered by India, especially in frontier technologies to provide business solutions aimed at sustainable development. Mr. Mark Hauptmann emphasised the importance of business cooperation between the two countries that are set in motion by high level visits as well as through the networking opportunities offered through business events such as the Indo-German Business Dialogue.



2.4 Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), the Keynote Speaker, emphasised the importance laid on facilitating businesses in India and the continuous measures and reforms to ensure a stable and growth-oriented environment.



2.5 These sentiments were echoed by Mr. Ralph Brinkhaus, who said that India–Germany relationship goes beyond mere interests of the two countries, and that this relationship is a story of the enduring partnership that exists between India and Germany.



2.6 Mr. Christian Hirte reaffirmed that India and Germany could be even stronger strategic partners and enhancing the bilateral economic engagement was a priority for both Governments.



2.7 Indian and German businesses including Wipro, KPMG, Rolls Royce offered ideas for strengthening economic cooperation stressing the need to focus on bilateral cooperation in AI, Start-ups and infrastructure.



2.8 The event marked the start of the fifth year of the Make in India Mittelstand (MIIM) Programme, which is an investment facilitation programme implemented by the Embassy of India, Berlin, since 2015. The programme is facilitating more than 135 German Mittelstand companies (SMEs) with a declared investment of over 1.2 billion Euros in India.

Important news of the month

Sector Undertaking of Central or State Government.

Tax rates slashed

3.1 The Finance Minister of India announced several tax rates cuts during the month:

- a. Now, domestic company has an option to pay income-tax at the rate of **22%** subject to condition that they will not avail any exemption/incentive. Earlier
- b. New domestic company incorporated on or after 1st October 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing, has an option to pay income-tax at the rate of **15%**.
- c. In order to provide relief to companies which continue to avail exemptions/incentives, the rate of Minimum Alternate Tax has been reduced from existing **18.5% to 15%**.
- d. Enhanced surcharge introduced by the Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 shall not apply on capital gains arising on sale of equity share in a company or a unit of an equity oriented fund or a unit of a business trust liable for securities transaction tax, in the hands of an individual, HUF, AOP, BOI and AJP.
- e. The enhanced surcharge shall also not apply to capital gains arising on sale of any security including derivatives, in the hands of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- f. In order to provide relief to listed companies which have already made a public announcement of buy-back before 5th July 2019, it is provided that tax on buy-back of shares in case of such companies shall not be charged.
- g. The Government has also decided to expand the scope of CSR 2 percent spending. Now CSR 2% fund can be spent on **incubators** funded by Central or State Government or any agency or Public

Easing compliance for Start-ups

3.2 In order to provide hassle-free tax environment to the Start-ups, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued Circular No.22/2019 dated 30.08.2019, through which all earlier circulars & clarifications have been consolidated. These include simplification of process of assessment of Start-ups, time limit for Completion of pending assessments of Start-ups, procedure for addition made in the past assessment, collection of existing Income-tax demand and constitution of Start-up Cell. This will make compliance easier for Start-up entities.

Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)

3.3 The CBDT has entered into 26 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) in the first 5 months of the current financial year (April to August, 2019). With the signing of these APAs, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT as of now stand at 297. The progress of the APA scheme strengthens the Government of India's resolve of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime. The Indian APA programme has been appreciated nationally and internationally for being able to address complex transfer pricing issues in a fair and transparent manner.

Activities during the month

4.1 Minister of Heavy Industries Mr Arvind Sawant led a delegation to IAA Frankfurt as chief guest at the world-renowned Auto Show and addressed industrialists, professionals & experts on the occasion of IAA 2019 India Day on September 13, 2019. He spoke about current status of global auto industry, Indo-German partnership in the auto sector, Investment friendly atmosphere in India and strong prospects held by the blend of Indian skills and German technology and technological developments in India.



4.2 Secretary AYUSH Dr Rajesh Kotecha met with Parliamentary State Secretary Ms Sabine Weiss on 13 September and discussed ways for promoting traditional Indian medicine specifically Ayurveda in Germany. He also presented a book on Yoga and postal stamps on Ayurveda to Ms Weiss.



4.3 Hindi Diwas 2019 was celebrated at the Embassy on 13 September. Various competitions were organized including poetry recitation, essay writing etc.



4.4 Dhruvad vocal recital was held on 19 September at the Embassy auditorium by Yvan Trunzler, Pakhawaj by Raimund Engelhardt accompanied by Beate Gatscha on Tanpura.



4.5 A performance of Contemporary Indian music was held on 17 September by 'TAPI' an urban folk band led by Yogendra Saniyawala, Swati Patel and Sorin Fratila at the Embassy auditorium.



4.6 On 1 September, Embassy of India, Berlin organized an Indian Vegetarian Food Festival as part of a series of commemorative events to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



More than 2000 visitors attended the Food Festival and enjoyed Indian cuisines from different parts of India. Indian music and dance performances were also held.



5. Upcoming Activities

Thursday
24 October 2019
18:00 hrs
Auditorium
Indian Embassy, Berlin



Dance
MOHINIYATTAM
Indian classical solo dance performance from Kerala, South India
Guru Jayaprabha Menon

Tuesday
29 October 2019
18:00 hrs
Auditorium
Indian Embassy, Berlin



Concert
GHAZALS FROM INDIA
Popular poetic Indian vocal music by:
Ritu Johari - Vocals
Richa Johari - Vocals
Mohammed Rashid Khan - Muthi
Shashikant Govindprasad Sharma - Tabla



Sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations
An event in collaboration with DRC

Wednesday
30 October 2019
18:00 hrs
Auditorium
Indian Embassy, Berlin



Concert
SITAR MUSIC
Classical Indian Raga music by:
Pandit Ashim Chowdhury - Sitar
Ashis Paul - Tabla
Aditya Chowdhury - Farpura

Wednesday
13 November 2019
18:00 hrs
Auditorium
Indian Embassy, Berlin



Concert
IRFAN KHAN QUARTETT
A musical journey in time and space
Irfan Khan - Sitar
Matyas Welter - Surobair & Star
Markus Schlaefke - Afghan Rubab
Sanjib Pal -Tabla & Pashawag

Monday
18 November 2019
18:00 hrs
Auditorium
Indian Embassy, Berlin



Dance
SPIRIT OF INDIA
Sculptural Odissi choreographies, philosophical stories and a blend of acrobatic Goupua stances
Monalisa Ghosh
Raju Mishra
Afrina Nasrin

Liberalisation of E-Visa Regime

Government of India has further liberalised the e-VISA regime by reducing visa fees and increasing the duration of visas. A one month e-Tourist visa can be obtained for USD 10/25, a one year visa for USD 40 and a 5 year visa for USD 80. Further information available at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

Ease in Applying for OCI Services

Applicants for Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards/services are no longer required to submit copies of OCI applications and supporting documents to the Embassy/Consulates. They may upload the documents online and inform the Embassy/consulate by e-mail. More details can be seen at <https://ociservices.gov.in/welcome>



Make In India Mittelstand (MIIM) is a business support programme of the Embassy of India, Berlin that supports market entry into India for German Mittelstands.

FREE SERVICES OFFERED		KEY SUPPORT AREAS	
Workshops/ Webinars	Networking Platform	Location Analysis	Market Assessment
Customized Workshops	Query Handling	Partner Search	Feasibility Studies
		Market Entry Financing	Taxation Services

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