



Virtual Bilateral Summit between Hon'ble Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, September 2020.



H.E. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, Colombo, January 2021.



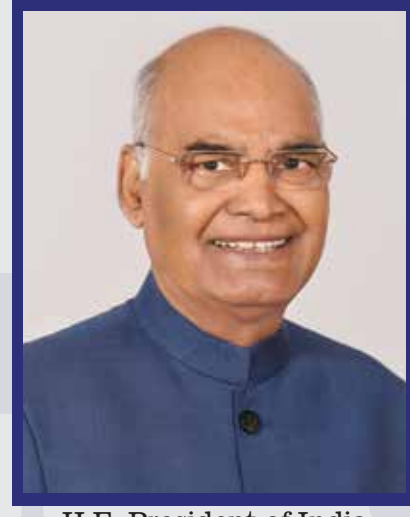
H.E. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with Indian National Security Advisor Mr. Ajit Doval, Colombo, November 2020.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with Indian National Security Advisor Mr. Ajit Doval, Colombo, November 2020.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, Colombo, January 2021.



H.E. President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi



H.E. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with H.E. President Ram Nath Kovind and Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, New Delhi, November 2019.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and H.E. President Ram Nath Kovind, New Delhi, February 2020.



H.E. Gopal Baglay

Message from High Commissioner

I extend warm greetings to the friendly people of Sri Lanka and all Indians residing in this beautiful country on the occasion of the 72 nd Republic Day of India. It was on 26 January 1950 that the world's largest written Constitution entered into force into a newly independent India and transformed the young nation into a Republic. As a fellow South Asian democracy and our closest maritime neighbour, Sri Lanka has been a consistent partner of the Indian people and society. Our common heritage, of which Buddhism is a core element, reflects our cultural similarities and millennia old people-to-people ties.

Today, we are fortunate to have strong leaders guiding our destinies. As a result, I feel extremely positive about the prospects for our bilateral relationship. Eversince my arrival in Colombo on 8 May 2020, carrying 12.5 tonnes of medical supplies, I have worked with the Sri Lankan side including the Government and its people with a sense of purpose to take our bilateral engagement forward. I am happy to share with you that despite the challenges of the COVID 19, our two Governments have been able to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges including through the Virtual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on 26 September 2020 and the numerous telephone conversations between Prime Minister Modi and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The National Security Adviser of India visited Colombo in November for the 4 th Trilateral Meeting with his counterparts from Sri Lanka and Maldives. Most recently, in early January this year, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar undertook an official visit during which he

had very productive conversations with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa besides bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and separate meetings with the prominent political leaders of Sri Lanka, setting the tone for expanded bilateral cooperation in the year 2021.

India and Sri Lanka have supported each other in dealing with the challenges posed by the COVID 19 and the leaderships have resolved to enhance this engagement in the weeks and months to come including through early supply of vaccines. A central element would be the continued commitment of the Government of India to development cooperation throughout the island with special focus on areas such as water, sanitation, vocational training, education etc. On the defence and security side, we intend to deepen our ties in the sphere of training, equipment, intelligence sharing, countering terrorism and drug trafficking amongst others. We remain committed to assisting Sri Lanka with increased foreign investment and cooperation in infrastructure projects like ports, airports, energy including renewable such as solar and wind. I am confident that working together, India and Sri Lanka will be able to successfully overcome the contemporary economic and other challenges.

Let the friendship between our countries and its people grow from strength to strength! I also use this opportunity to extend my greetings to you for the forthcoming Sri Lankan Independence Day!

Namaskar, Ayubhowan, Vanakkam!





Gandhi Nagar - Model Village built with Indian assistance inaugurated in Batticaloa.

An innovative owner-driven model under which technical support and financial assistance is provided to beneficiaries.



From a village built with Indian assistance under the Model Villages Program in Ranidugama, Gampaha District



Sathsurugama model village, Hambantota completed under the Grama Shakti Model Village Housing Project

60,000 HOUSES IN SRI LANKA

COMPLETED

PHASE I

- 1,000 houses in Northern Province, completed in July 2012.

PHASE II

- 45,000 houses in Northern and Eastern Provinces, completed in December 2018.
- Innovative, owner-driven model was adopted
- Grant of LKR. 550,000 per house construction (LRK. 250,000 for repair)

ONGOING

PHASE III

- 4,000 houses for Estate workers in Central, Uva and Southern Province
- Construction is underway and 2933 houses have been completed
- Adopts an Innovative, owner-driven model
- Grant of LKR. 950,000 per house construction

COMMITTED

PHASE IV

- 10,000 houses for Estate workers in Plantation area announced by Prime Minister of India in August 2018.
- House Construction is expected to start soon

Other Key Projects



'Shilpa Saviya', a handicraft village in Hambantota, inaugurated in 2019, will provide new opportunities to local artisans to showcase their craft to tourists travelling to Yala & Kataragama.



Islandwide 1990 Suwaseriya Emergency Ambulance Service.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the 150 bed Hatton Dickoya Base Hospital to the nation in May, 2017. The hospital was built under grant assistance of the Government of India at an estimated cost of SLR 1200 million.



In 2018, the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium, built with Indian grant assistance of SLR 300 million at the University of Ruhuna, Matara in, was dedicated to the people of Sri Lanka.





INDIA-SRI LANKA DEFENCE COOPERATION

Shared security concerns and a dynamic Indian Ocean Region guide the robust bilateral defence links between India and Sri Lanka. Cooperation in the area is marked by periodic high level exchange visits, institutionalised talks at various levels between the Armed Forces, training assistance, joint training and exercises and ship visits.

2020 witnessed intense activities in the defence sphere. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval reinvigorated the trilateral talks on Maritime Security Cooperation after a gap of six years in November 2020. Secretary of Defence with the Chief of Defence Staff from Sri Lanka participated at the DEFEXPO in Lucknow.

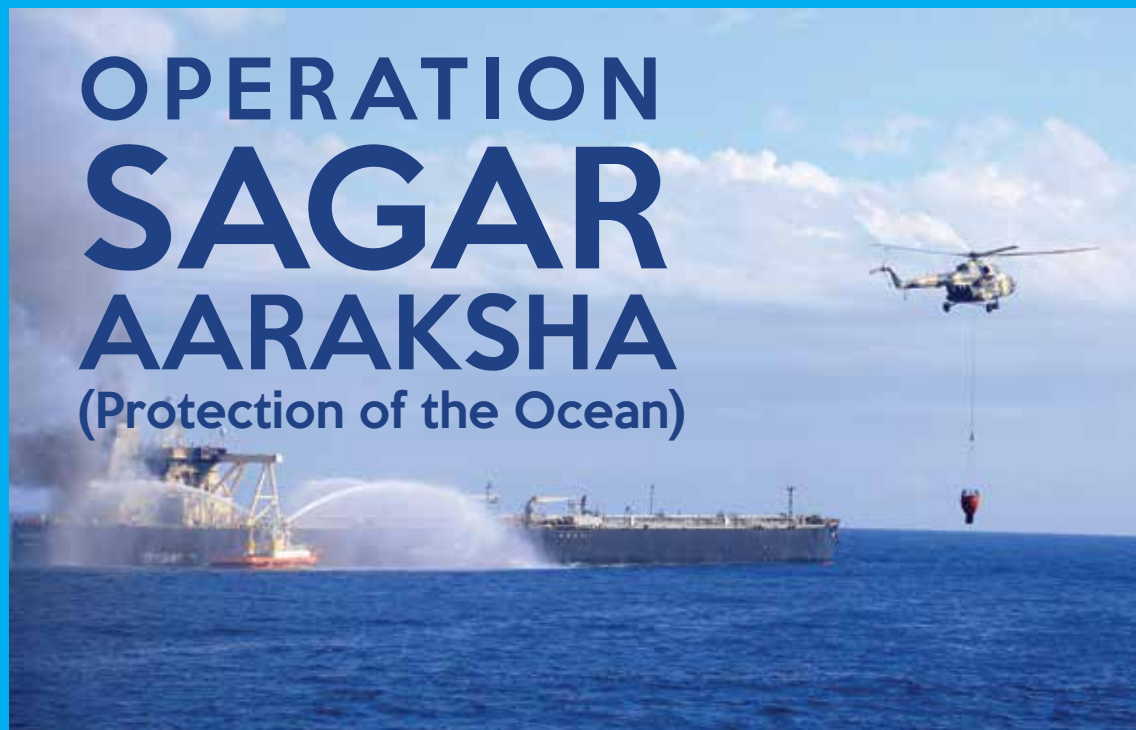
Number of Indian defence ships and aircraft which visited Sri Lanka was the maximum in 2020 - a testimony to strengthening bonds and the spirit of camaraderie. Braving the challenges posed by COVID-19, premier courses continued to be offered to the Sri Lanka Defence forces and additional slots were created in several more major courses. In 2020, first of the Lady Pilots of the Sri Lanka Air Force trained in India received their wings and the Advanced Light Helicopter of Indian Navy landed on SLNS Gajabahu during SLINEX 2020.

Operation Samudra Setu helped in two-way repatriation of stranded citizens between India and Sri Lanka. INS Jalashwa carried 700 Indians on board. The first Indian Coast Guard Maritime Patrol Aircraft landed at the Mattala airport in support of Operation Sagar Aaraksha.

To assist Sri Lanka Clearance Divers INS Nireekshak facilitated Mixed Gas diving experience to the Sri Lanka Navy Divers in March 2020. Joint hydrographic survey off coastal areas of Sri Lanka, was undertaken by Indian Naval survey ship Jamuna for a period of close to two months.



OPERATION SAGAR AARAKSHA (Protection of the Ocean)



VLCC MT New Diamond carrying 2.7 Lakh Metric Tons of Crude Oil whilst on transit from Mina Kuwait to Paradeep, India reported Fire onboard on 3 September 2020, just 38 nm South East of Sangaman Kanda Point off the Sri Lanka coast. Sri Lanka responded quickly to the incident but the scale of the challenge demanded a more wholesome approach.

As first responders, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard swung into action by deploying multiple assets. The fire was still ablaze onboard MT New Diamond and she drifted as close as 10 nm from the Sri Lanka Coast. This triggered the fears of the VLCC running aground over the night. However, realizing the severity of the situation, the brave men of Indian Navy volunteered to connect up tow for the ship whilst the fire was still ablaze.

The coordinated efforts by assets from multiple agencies from India and Sri Lanka displayed jointmanship of the highest order with nearly 15-20 aircrafts and ships operating in close vicinity of MT New Diamond in support of the Salvage Operations. The extremely cohesive multi-functional team consisting of members from both countries achieved was able to bring the fire under control after nearly nine days of active operations on 12 September 20. Joint efforts continued even after dousing the fire. Clearly, interoperability achieved by the defence forces of the two countries over years of joint training was on display.

The Operation, which averted a major commercial and environmental catastrophe by preventing the massive oil spill, was named 'Sagar (Ocean in Hindi) Aaraksha (Protection in Sinhalese)', symbolizes the strong bonds of friendship.





Namal Rajapaksa @Raj... · 1d ...
 HE @narendramodi vision for #StartUpIndia has not only revolutionized the Indian #startup eco system in #india but @BimstecInDhaka & the globe! Thank you Hon @PiyushGoyal for inviting me. Proud moment for #LKA that @PickMeLK was also recognized today! 🙏 #සමගම 🇮🇳 @IndainSL



Commercial Linkages

Minister of Youth and Sports of Sri Lanka, Hon. Namal Rajapaksa participated in the Inaugural as well as Grand Plenary Sessions of the Startup India International Summit organized by the Government of India on 15 - 16 January 2021. There was special focus on partnership and collaboration among the BIMSTEC countries in the Startup sector at the Summit. The Founder and CEO of PickMe, Mr. Jiffy Zulfer Hassan shared his experiences in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A number of other panelists and experts from Sri Lanka also participated in the panel discussions.

Minister of Trade of Sri Lanka, Hon. Bandula Gunawardana participated in the Inaugural Session of the 'Partnership Summit' organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry in partnership with the Government of India on 15 December 2020.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar interacted with business and industry leaders from Sri Lanka on a broad array of issues including the development of a stronger economic partnership between India and Sri Lanka on 07 January 2021.

Deputy High Commissioner Vinod K. Jacob participated in the grand opening ceremony of the 100 MW wind power project at Thambapawani in Mannar on 8 December 2020. This project, the first of its kind in Mannar, was dedicated to Sri Lanka by its Prime Minister, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa and involved the participation of Indian executives and workers in the implementing agencies.

Collaboration in renewable and sustainable energy is a focus area for Governments of India and Sri Lanka. In accordance with these shared priorities, both sides are currently working on a USD 100 million credit line by India in the solar power sector. This multi-pronged project envisages enhancement of solar power usage in government buildings and low-income households through the installation of rooftop units and commissioning of floating solar power plant(s) in Sri Lanka.

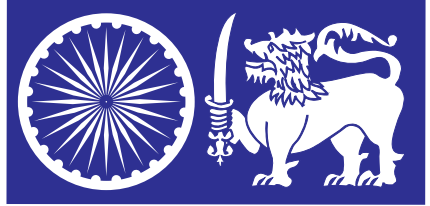
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa was the Chief Guest at the online inauguration of HCL's first Development Centre in Sri Lanka on 07 September 2020. High Commissioner attended the event as a Special Guest.

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated virtually in the Inaugural Session of the Sri Lanka Economic Summit organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce on 1 December 2020 and delivered the keynote address.





INDIA - SRI LANKA



FOUNDATION

A glimpse of activities funded by the INDIA – SRI LANKA FOUNDATION

Since the inception in 1998 as an inter- governmental initiative, on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka, the India – Sri Lanka Foundation (ISLF) has been continuously fostering ties between the two countries through economic, education, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. As a result, the ISLF has been instrumental in establishing greater people to people contacts.

The specific focus of the ISLF pivots around supporting creative initiatives and bringing together the youth and the civil societies of the two countries. Till date, the Foundation has funded more than 300 projects worth SLR.150 Million and currently 25 projects in the areas of research, history & culture, social work, science and technology are in progress.

The deriving motive behind the ISLF is the belief that paucity of funds should not become a hurdle that constraints the implementation of any innovative idea that have the potential to further strengthen India – Sri Lanka ties. While the ISLF has supported youth exchange programmes it has also promoted the pursuit of higher studies as well as research, besides supporting a variety of cultural programmes.



ITEC

INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ENHANCING COOPERATION IN CAPACITY
BUILDING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted in 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India. The ITEC Programme, fully funded by the Government of India has evolved and grown over the years. Under ITEC and its sister programme SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme), 161 countries in Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to share the Indian developmental experience acquired over seven decades of India's existence as a free nation. Training or capacity building is one of the major activities under ITEC. The professionals from developing countries are offered unique training courses, both civilian and defence in a number of streams and in a number of institutions all over India.

Sri Lanka is one of the most important ITEC partner countries and Government of India offers around 400 fully-funded slots every year to officials in various Ministries of Government of Sri Lanka and also to other eligible citizens of Sri Lanka for short-term training programs in various prestigious institutions in India to enhance their skill-sets. The courses are spread over a multitude of sectors such as Management & Leadership, International Trade, Tourism, Textiles, Agriculture, Banking, Accounting, Artificial Intelligence, Yoga, Renewable Energy, Petroleum & Hydrocarbon, Media, SMEs, Women empowerment, IT, English language etc. The courses are fully funded by Government of India and cover airfare, accommodation, study tours, course fee, living allowance, book allowance etc. India has continuously been observing enthusiastic participation from Sri Lanka every year with almost full utilization of the allocated ITEC slots.

Due to the inability of Sri Lankan officials to undertake visits to India on account of COVID – 19 situation and the restrictions on international travel henceforth Government of India began conducting online Courses in early April, 2020 under the refurbished e-ITEC. The first program held under this rubric was a webinar titled 'COVID-19 Pandemic: Prevention and Management Guidelines for Health Care Professionals', conducted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur in April 2020, which saw the participation of 12 Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health of Government of Sri Lanka.

In recent months, there has been enthusiastic participation from Sri Lanka in the e-ITEC courses. The course titled 'COVID-19 - Good Governance Practices in a Pandemic', organized in June, 2020 at National Centre for Good Governance, Mussoorie, saw the participation of 81 senior government functionaries from 16 ITEC partner countries, including Major General H. J. S. Gunawardena RSP VSV USP ndc psc, Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Army, who shared the experience and the best practices being followed by Sri Lanka in controlling the pandemic.



Student Exchange Programme
between St.Patrick's College Jaffna and
Apeejay School Uttar Pradesh.



Research on graphical evaluation of
Sinhala script and Indian influence
by Dr.Sumantri Samarawickrama.



International Training Programme in
Human Resource Planning and Development .



ITEC Day Celebrations in Colombo in September.



"Who was Ashoka? a critical study",
book by the Sri Lankan writer Daya Dissanayake.



International White Cane Safety Day organized by
Sri Lanka Welfare Organization of Visually Impaired Women.



Sri Lankan Police officials at Gujarat Forensic Sciences University
(GFSU), Gandhinagar



Course on Remote Sensing with Special Emphasis on
Digital Image Processing at India Institute of
Remote Sensing, Dehradun.





India - Sri Lanka Cultural Links

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), the cultural arm of the High Commission of India has been playing a key role in strengthening cultural ties and promoting people-to-people contacts between the two countries since its inception in 1998. SVCC has earned a reputation for excellence through its several activities such as dance and music performances, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, lectures, and cultural festivals etc. It also offers scholarships to select talented Sri Lankan artists in various fields across reputed institutes in India. It undertakes various outreach activities including capacity building programmes in rural areas of Sri Lanka. SVCC commemorates Poya Days every month by organizing Dhamma Discourses, webinars, workshops, art exhibitions and other activities.



Poson Pavura by Sri Lankan artists celebrating the month of Poson and the arrival of Most Ven. Arahath Mahinda Thera to Sri Lanka, featured at the High Commission of India.



Ten years old Master Sai Dhinakar Kouwshigan from Sri Lanka has been selected as a winner in the International Painting Competition 'United Against CORONA'. His artwork titled 'Let Us Defeat COVID -19' was short-listed for the award by an international panel of judges. His art inspired by the Warli tribal art form of India is a beautiful blend of traditional and contemporary elements.



6th International Day of Yoga organized in collaboration with Sri Lankan Army

Classes

- For conducting these classes, the Centre draws on a talented and committed group of Sri Lankan teachers, many of whom are doctorate with Ph.D. degree in their field of study.
- There are nearly 1500 students enrolled in the various classes conducted at the Centre.

Violin

Visharad Dr. Somasiri Illsinghe

Bharathanatyam classes

Dr. Subashini Pathmanathan & Kalasuri Mrs. Vasugi Jegatheeswaran.

Carnatic Vocal Music

Kalasuri Dr. Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan.

Tabla

Mr. Ranga Perera

Yoga

Mr. Vyasah Kalyasunderam

Sitar

Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo.

Kathak Dance

Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya.

Hindi

India-based Hindi Teacher Dr. Monica Sharma
Hindi teachers from Sri Lanka:
Mr. Brezil Nagodavithana, Ms. Athila Kothalawala,
Ms. G.D. Chandima Chandrasinghe,
Ms. Nadheera Shewanthi, Amani Wickramaarachchi and
K.A.D. Kariyakarawana.



@iccr_colombo



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWPO3zg2pe5-HOIw9VqBgWA?view_as=subscriber



<https://www.facebook.com/ICCRSriLanka>



<https://hicolombo.gov.in/culturalcenterarchive>





As part of Government of India's initiatives towards development of education in the Northern Province, LKR 250 Million was allocated for construction of class rooms in the Northern Province.



Under a grant-in-aid of the Government of India, Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya organized a walk for awareness from Ariyalai Gandhi statue to the Gandhi statue at Cargills Square on the 72 nd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in January, 2020 to create awareness about the ill effects of drugs and alcohol. Over 500 people participated in the walk.



The first ever International Tech Summit- NE(X)TWORK-2020 was organized in 2020 in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Jaffna and the Northern Chamber of Information Technology (NCIT). Over 500 people attended the inauguration and the summit was attended by 8 Indian companies and 25 local companies.



Indian priests from Rameshwaram, Sivaganga and Tanjavur & over 2,500 pilgrims attended the annual St. Anthony's Church Festival at Kachchativu.

Activities throughout the Island



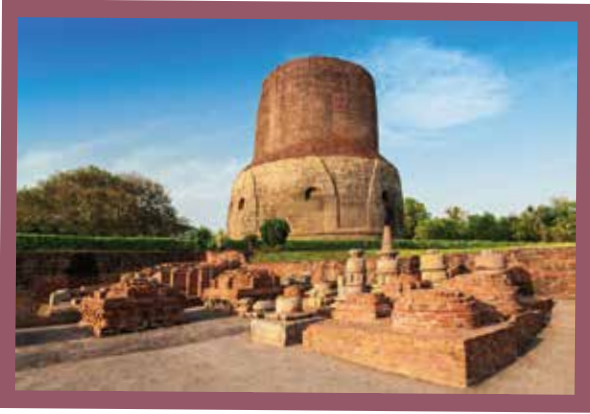
104 Indian Classical musical instruments worth 3 million were presented to several Schools and Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, Matara in Southern Province.



High Commission facilitated two-way repatriation of stranded persons between India and Sri Lanka during COVID-19. Sri Lankan nationals were taken on special flights to India for medical emergencies and arrangements were put in place for the movement of Sri Lankan nationals stranded in India. Around 5000 Indians have so far been repatriated from Sri Lanka.



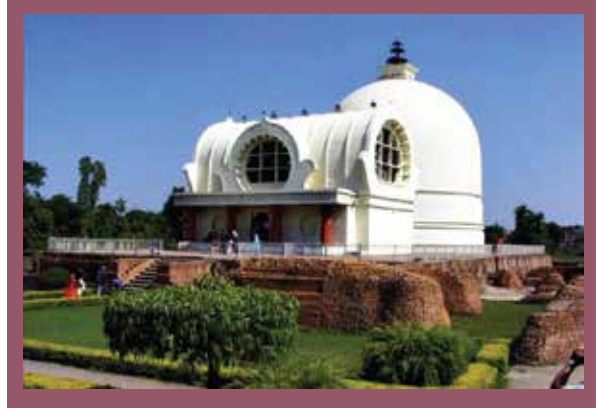
A Photo Exhibition, "INDIA THROUGH SRI LANKAN EYES" at Hiththatiya Raja Maha Viharaya was organized on the occasion of Binara Full Moon Poya Day and photographs of many Buddhist temples in India (Dambadiva) were displayed.



Sarnath
Sarnath is where Lord Buddha taught the four noble truths of life and death. It was at Sarnath that he established his sangha or first disciples and set the wheel of Dhamma in motion for the first time.



Shravasti
Lord Buddha spent 25 years living in the monastery of Jetavana, and he delivered many of his sermons here.



Kushinagar
Lord Buddha attained parinirvana in Kushinagar and the reclining nirvana statue of Lord Buddha, made of monolith red sandstone from the 5th Century at the Mahaparinirvana Temple pays homage to this.

India has promised a grant assistance of US\$ 15 million for promotion of Buddhist ties between India and Sri Lanka. The grant will be utilized towards construction/renovation of Buddhist monasteries, reciprocal exposition of The Buddha's relics, strengthening engagement of Buddhist scholars and clergy etc.



Sankassa
Lord Buddha returned here after preaching the Dhamma in the world of gods (devas or celestial beings) and after performing the Twin Miracle.



Sikkim
Sikkim is a popular Buddhist destination as it has about 200 monasteries belonging to the Nyingma and Kagyu order.



Ladakh
There are a large number of beautiful monasteries that one can visit in Ladakh and amongst the most famous ones are Shey, Hemis, Thiksey Monastery, Diskit Monastery, Lamayuru, Spituk, Alchi, Phyang and Rangdum.



Sanchi
An enormous stupa built as a tribute by emperor Ashoka, contains relics of Lord Buddha's revered disciples, Sariputta and Moggallana.



Vaishali
Lord Buddha visited Vaishali thrice and delivered his last sermon and announced his Nirvana here. Vaishali also held the second Buddhist Council.



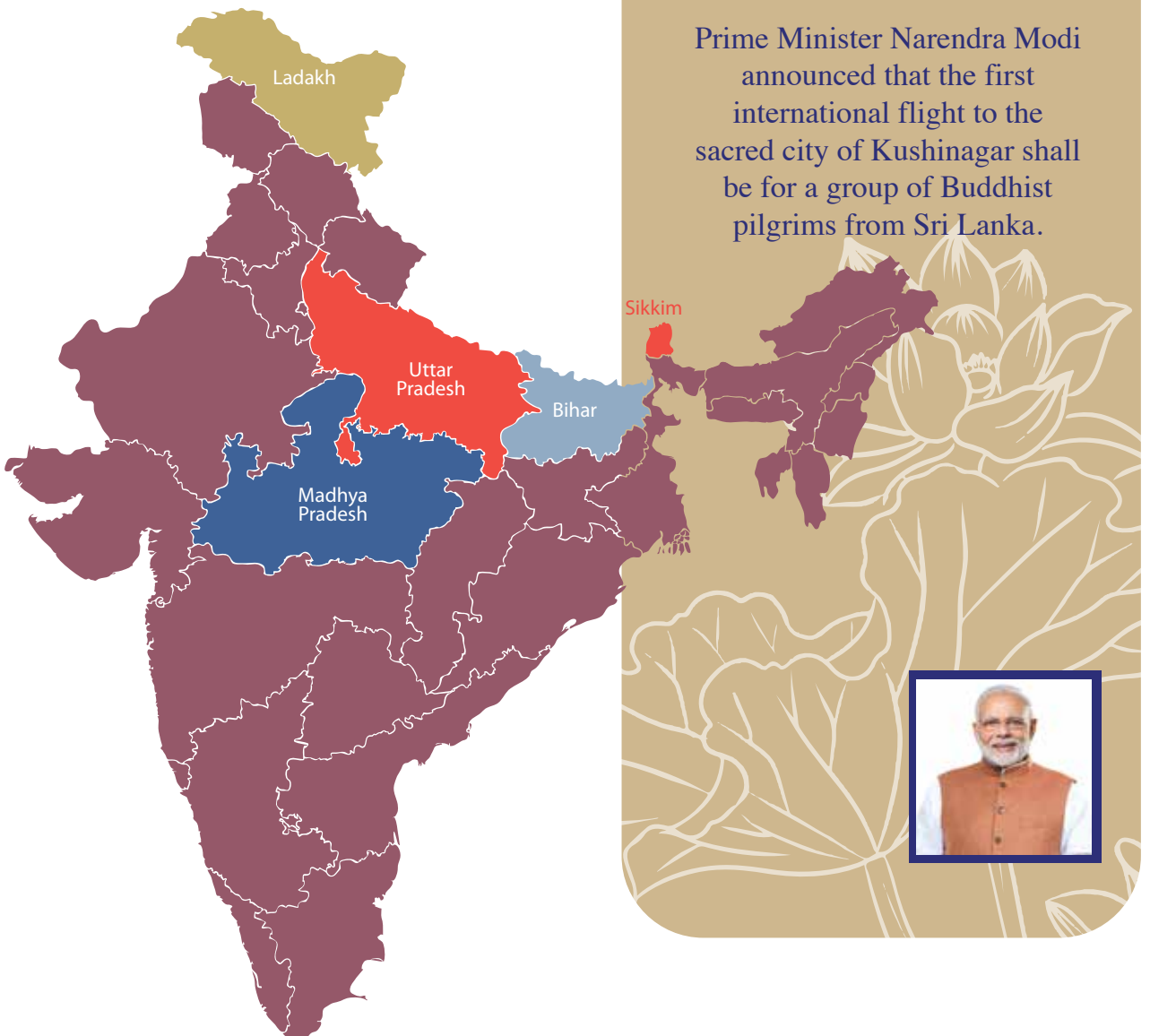
Bodhi Gaya
Bodhi Gaya is where Lord Buddha attained unsurpassed, supreme Enlightenment.



Nalanda
Nalanda was an ancient Mahavihara, a large Buddhist monastery in the ancient kingdom of Magadha, which also served as a renowned centre of learning.



Rajgir
It is where the second turning of the Wheel of Dhamma took place. The Saptaparni Cave is where the first Buddhist Council was organised to write down Lord Buddha's teachings.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the first international flight to the sacred city of Kushinagar shall be for a group of Buddhist pilgrims from Sri Lanka.





INDIA

PHARMACY OF THE WORLD

India is steadily carving out a unique Indian healthcare story. It is one of the few developing countries that has developed unique solutions relevant to the entire global South. Medical tourism from its extended neighbourhood attests to this. Indian development partnership is creating medical infrastructure such as hospitals, providing training and medical services, sometimes remotely through telemedicine, to its larger neighbourhood and in Africa.

India accounts for nearly 25% of vaccine manufacturing capacity globally and accounts for 60% of supplies made to UNICEF.

More than 30 conventional vaccines are manufactured in India.

With more than 1.45 billion doses, Indian Vaccine Impact is spread across 140 countries

India rolled out its COVID-19 vaccination programme on 16 January 2021. Considered to be the world's largest vaccination program, it covers 30 million health care and frontline programme workers across India in the first phase. The endeavor is to cover 300 million in the second phase.

Guided by 'Neighbourhood First', 'Pharmacy of the World' is supplying COVISHIELD vaccines to its neighbours and partner countries.



India's Vaccine Industry Serving the world



>60% of vaccines supplied to the developing world



World Health Organization


7 WHO PREQUALIFIED MANUFACTURERS

#LargestVaccineDrive

3 Crore

Healthcare Workers & Frontline Workers will be vaccinated in the first phase of the drive

“As the largest vaccine producing country of the world, I want to give one more assurance to the global community today. India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis.”



“Without India, there won't be enough vaccines to save the world”

- Peter Piot.

Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

INDIAN ECONOMY

braving COVID-19

➤ Charting a strong recovery path, overall Index of Industrial Production attained an eight month high.

➤ Bank credit increased by 5.1%.

➤ Predictions of a strong rebound and positive economic growth in 2021.

Agriculture



Agriculture has remained resilient and robust in the face of the COVID pandemic.

Overall acreage increased by close to 3% during the rabi season.

Record procurement has burgeoned the central pool 2.5 times the current buffer norms.

Essential agricultural commodities export for April-September 2020 increased by 43%.

Renewable Energy



India's renewable energy capacity is 4th largest in the world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's largest integrated renewable energy park comprising both wind and solar energy in Gujarat on 15 December 2020.

India's endeavor is to generate 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 through a low-carbon and climate-resilient development approach.

The International Solar Alliance was anchored by India.

Pharmaceuticals



3 rd largest pharmaceutical industry in the world.

Largest provider of generic drugs.

Pharmaceutical exports to almost all countries across the globe.

3 mega Bulk Drug parks coming up in India.

