



Newsletter for the month of June 2019

India

G20 Summit:



Russia's President Putin, PM Modi and China's President Xi at Informal Summit of RIC leaders on the sidelines of G20 Summit

PM Shri Narendra Modi attended the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit which was held from 28-29 June. Issues such as women empowerment, digitalization and artificial intelligence, progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and major global challenges such as terrorism and climate change were discussed. During his stay, PM Modi took part in a series of Summit sessions, bilateral and multilateral meetings such as Japan-America-India (JAI) Trilateral with US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Abe, the Informal Summit of "Russia-India-China"

(RIC) leaders and BRICS Leader's Meeting (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

President's Address to Parliament:



*Address by President Kovind to Parliament
Photo: Times of India*

On 20 June, India's President Ram Nath Kovind addressed the first joint sitting of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, after the elections for the 17th Lok Sabha. He stated that in this year's Lok Sabha election, more than 610 million citizens had set a new record by casting their votes, which had enhanced the credibility of India's democracy in the world. He highlighted that the people of India had given a very clear mandate in this election, and that after assessing the Government's performance during the first tenure, the people had given even stronger support for the second term.

President Kovind also underlined that by doing so, the people of the country had given a mandate for continuing uninterrupted and at an accelerated pace the journey of development which started in 2014.

Celebration of Passport Seva Divas: The main event of “Passport Seva Divas” was celebrated in New Delhi from 24-25 June, in the presence of Hon’ble External Affairs Minister, Hon’ble Minister of Communications and other senior government officials, with renewed commitment to provide passport and passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, reliable, accessible, transparent and efficient manner. In his Message on the occasion, EAM stated that the year 2018 saw the continued growth in passport and passport-related services, and more than 12.4 million passports were issued in India and abroad. He also requested all the Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad to continue further enhancing the performance, transparency and delivery of the governance system.

Indian States / Festivals

Uttar Pradesh:



*Trans Ganga Hitech City near Kanpur is being developed as an Industrial Model Township
Photo: UP State Industrial Development Corporation*

Uttar Pradesh is India’s most populous state with about 200 million inhabitants. The state borders Nepal to the north and is divided into three natural regions, which are Bhabar and Terai, the plain of the Ganga and the

Yamuna rivers, and the southern plateau. The economy of Uttar Pradesh ranks 4th among India’s 33 states and union territories with an estimated GDP of USD 230 billion in 2018-2019, and the estimated GDP growth rate is 7% from 2018-19 to 2019-20. Uttar Pradesh is the IT hub of North India, and unlike South Indian states, IT enterprises are limited to particular areas such as Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad, the commercial capital Kanpur and the state capital Lucknow. Noida is for example famous for being the headquarters of TV news broadcasters such as ABP News, Zee News, NDTV and Mahua News. Also, Uttar Pradesh has recently witnessed rapid industrialization, particularly after the launch of policies of economic liberalization. The most industrialized areas in the state are Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Kanpur, Lucknow, Faizabad, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur and Balrampur. There are many mineral-based industries, and the state has ample reserves of coal, dolomite and gems while other important minerals include diaspore, sulphur, magnesite, pyrophyllite, silica sand and limestone.



*Taj Mahal, Agra
Photo: Wikipedia*

Moreover, Uttar Pradesh has several historical, natural and religious tourist destinations such as Agra, Ayodhya, Vrindavan, Lucknow, Mathura, Varanasi and Prayagraj. The ivory-white marble mausoleum Taj Mahal in Agra is among the world’s most famous tourist attractions. It is considered as the finest example of Mughal

architecture, a style that combines elements from Persian, Indian and Islamic architectural styles. It became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 and was cited as “the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world’s heritage”. The Taj Mahal attracts 7-8 million visitors annually, with more than 0.8 million from overseas.

Sital Sasthi Festival: On 9 June, the Sital Sasthi festival was celebrated in Sambalpur, western Odisha. The festival was started about 400 years ago and is held to encourage an abundant monsoon. Activities related to the festival include a carnival-like marriage procession, which also features deities, and performances by thousands of folk artists of traditional art forms in Odisha.

International commercial & business activities in India

ICETIT-2019: From 21-22 June, the International Conference on Emerging Trends in Information Technology (ICETIT)-2019 was held in New Delhi. The conference was organized by Institute of Information Technology and Management, Janakpuri, Delhi, and was supported and promoted by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, GoI. The conference gathered more than 350 national and international participants, and featured plenary talks and workshops, demonstrations, parallel technical sessions and tutorials in the areas of Internet of Everything and network technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning, data analytics and cloud computing, security and privacy, and next generation computing technologies.

India-Norway:

Business Seminar with NICCI: A Business Seminar was organized by the

Embassy of India in collaboration with the Norway India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI) in Oslo on 3 June. The seminar focused on business opportunities available in India for Norwegian companies. The event gathered about 200 participants, and was considered as a next-step to maintain traction after the focus created by the visit of Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg to India in January 2019.



*Counsellor (Pol & Eco) Arundhati Das delivered the welcome address at India Business Day
Photo: NICCI*

Indian Community:

Tree Plantation ceremony:



Ambassador Kumar planted a Cherry Blossom sapling

As part of celebrations of the World Environment Day and the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Ambassador Krishan Kumar planted saplings at Sanatan Mandir Sabha, Slemmestad, Gurudwara Shri Guru Nanak Niwas, Lier, Embassy premises and India House.

Speaking at the Plantation ceremonies on June 5, Ambassador highlighted that GoI decided to plant trees worldwide on the World Environment Day, in view of this year's theme of "Air Pollution". He stated that Mahatma Gandhi's ideas promoted environmental sustainability through limitation of human wants and greed. Ambassador emphasized that trees purify air, save water, prevent water pollution and reinforce soil. Ambassador also encouraged the representatives of the Indian Associations in Norway to propagate the message of environmental protection.

Andhra-Telangana Day:



Celebration of Andhra-Telangana Day

As part of the Government of India's initiative "Promotion of Indian States", the Embassy of India in collaboration with the Norway Telugu Association celebrated Andhra-Telangana Day in Oslo on 8th June. The event was successful in highlighting the States' history, cultural diversity and economic developments; achievements as one of the fastest growing economies in India: and to become attractive destinations for the foreign companies for investment purposes. Both the states have been ranked the best top states in Ease of Doing Business in India by the World Bank. A cultural programme based on cultural traditions of the states was also organized. The event was very well attended and highly appreciated by the audience.

5th International Day of Yoga: Mission, in collaboration with some Yoga Studios in

Norway, organized the 5th International Day of Yoga (IDY) in Oslo on 23rd June at Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH).



Ambassador Kumar at IDY 2019 in Oslo

This year, three Norwegian Yoga celebrities were special guests – I) Ms. Henriette Lien, an actor, professional dancer and presenter on radio and television; ii) Ms. Linn Stokke, an actor, singer and writer; and iii) Ms. Maria Fürst, a journalist and Yoga author, who writes her own Yoga blog. The IDY celebration was well-attended by Yoga lovers, including Norwegians, PIOs and NRIs. A 60-minute Yoga Session based on Common Yoga Protocol was conducted by four professional Norwegian Yoga teachers. Several Yoga Studios put up their stalls at the venue. The Embassy with the help of local sponsors presented Yoga mats to all attendees. In addition, Mission collaborated in organizing IDY 2019 at other venues in Norway: with Art of Living in Stavanger on 23rd June; with Amrita Yoga at Blommenholm on 21st June; with HSS Norway on 21st June; and with VHP Norway on 22nd June.



Celebration of IDY 2019 in Stavanger