



Newsletter for the month of September 2019

India

Prime Minister Modi addresses the UN General Assembly:



PM Modi addresses the UN General Assembly

On 27 September, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA74) in New York. He stated that Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence was relevant even today for peace, progress and development of the world, and urged the international community to give a new direction to multilateralism. PM Modi underlined that as the world was going through a new era, the countries did not have the option to confine themselves within their boundaries, and emphasized

that a divided world was in no one's interest and that the international community had to make efforts for multilateralism and reforming the UN. PM Modi also highlighted the huge transformation brought about in India by government initiatives such as Swachh Bharat, Ayushman Bharat, Jan Dhan Yojana and Digital identification (Aadhar).

PM Modi visits USA:



PM Modi and US President Donald Trump at the Howdy Modi event in Houston, USA

From 21 to 27 September, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited USA. He first visited Houston, and then New York. In Houston, PM Modi interacted with CEOs of leading energy companies in the US with the aim of enhancing the India-US

energy partnership, and addressed the Indian-American community at the Howdy Modi event which was attended by more than 50,000 people. He stated that new history and new chemistry was being made at the venue in Houston, and highlighted that the presence of US President Donald Trump and other US senators at the event talking about India's progress was a respect to the achievement of the 1.3 billion Indians. PM Modi also hailed the leadership qualities of President Trump and praised his resolve in fighting against terrorism. In New York, he attended the High Level Segment of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly.

PM Modi receives the “Global Goalkeeper Award”



PM Modi and Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chairman of the Bill&Melinda Gates Foundation

At an award ceremony on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York on 24 September, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received the “Global Goalkeeper Award” by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for the initiative Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. PM Modi stated that the success of the Swachh Bharat Mission was due to the people of India, who had made this their own movement and ensured that the desired results were attained. He highlighted that in

the last five years, more than 11 crore toilets had been constructed, and that the mission had benefitted the poor and women the most. PM Modi also added that India was ready to share its expertise and experiences with other nations to improve sanitation coverage worldwide.

Indian States / Festivals

Madhya Pradesh:



Diamond mines, Panna

Photo: Government of Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh is located in central India. The state economy ranks 10th among India's 33 states and union territories with an estimated GDP of USD 140 billion in 2019-2020, and it is among the fastest growing state economies with estimated GDP growth rate of 14.2% from 2018-19 to 2019-20. Madhya Pradesh is well-known for being rich in natural resources. The state is the sole diamond producing state in the country and in Asia, and the production stood at 8,039 carats during April-July 2018. Regarding other minerals, the state has the highest stone and copper reserves in India, as well as noteworthy reserves of coal, coal-bed methane, manganese and dolomite. Moreover, Madhya Pradesh is one of the major cotton producing states of India, and the key industries include auto and auto components, textiles, cement, agro-based industries, forest-based industries, pharmaceuticals, mineral-based industries, manufacturing, IT, logistics and

biotechnology. Also, Madhya Pradesh has three operational Special Economic Zones (SEZs), five notified SEZs and ten formally approved SEZs. Planned, theme-based SEZs near the city of Jabalpur, industry parks in Indore and food parks at multiple locations aim to promote sectoral growth. The Madhya Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited is the key agency for industrial growth in the state, and several initiatives have been adopted to promote Madhya Pradesh as an investment destination. Some of these initiatives include redevelopment of the Habibganj Railways station in Bhopal, an allocation of USD 32.44 million in the state budget 2018-19 under skill development scheme, development of infrastructure in 22 industrial units, and an interest subsidy for five years in the textile sector to attract investment.



*Khajuraho Temples
Photo: Indiator.com*

One of the most famous tourist attractions in Madhya Pradesh is the ancient Khajuraho Temples, which are located in the state's Bundelkhand region. The temple complex originally consisted of 85 temples, of which 22 have survived, and has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temples include Hindu and Jain temples which are famous worldwide for their Nagara style architecture and beautiful rock carvings. Other major tourist attractions in Madhya Pradesh include the

ruins of Mandu, the Chachai Falls, the deep valley of Patakot and the Bhimbetka rock shelters belonging to the Neolithic age.

Navaratri Festival:



*Navaratri Festival
Photo: Dushyant Thakur Photography/Getty Images*

The Sharad Navaratri Festival was celebrated across India from 29 September to 7 October. Navaratri is a nine-night festival which honours the Mother Goddess Durga, in all her manifestations. She is considered to be the protective mother who battles evil forces. The festival is celebrated in various ways; in western India, Navaratri features nine nights of dancing; in Delhi, the Ramlila plays are characteristic of Navaratri celebrations; and in south India, Navaratri is widely known as Golu and is celebrated by the display of dolls and figurines.

International commercial & business activities in India

2nd International Conference on Large-Scale Grid Integration of Renewable Energy in India: The 2nd International Conference on Large-Scale Grid Integration of Renewable Energy in India, which was endorsed by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Ministry of Power, GoI, was held in New Delhi from 4-6 September, 2019. Issues such as technical and economic issues of the large-

scale integration of solar and wind power including recent advances in transmission technologies, worldwide project experiences and innovative ideas were discussed. GoI has set a very ambitious goal to install 175 GW of renewable energy generation capacity by 2022, and grid integration is a critical challenge to successfully accomplish this target.

Bloomberg Global Business Forum: On 25 September, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum in New York. PM Modi stated that India's growth story was based on four pillars, including (i) democracy, (ii) demography, (iii) demand, and (iv) decisiveness. He also highlighted that India had implemented successful reforms which had led to improvement in global rankings such as Logistics Performance Index, Global Competitiveness Index, Global Innovation Index and Ease of Doing Business index, and invited the global business community to invest in India.

India-Norway:

Integrated Ocean Management and Green Transformation:



Indian delegation and Norwegian authorities

At the invitation of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a group of six experts led by Dr. Sumita Misra, Joint Secretary, NITI Ayog, India visited Oslo from 11-13

September, 2019 to study the Norwegian system of integrated ocean management and green transformation under the Joint Task Force on Blue Economy. The Expert Group had a meeting with the Ocean Team of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on importance of ocean in Norwegian foreign and development policy and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment on Green Growth Strategy of Norway and Norwegian Action Plan for Green Shipping. During the visit, they met Mr. Aksel Jakobsen, State Secretary for Development, MFA and visited Norwegian Environment Agency in Oslo and Institute of Marine Research in Bergen.

Indian Community:

Visit of Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna to Norway:



Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna at Nesbru High School

Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Functionary, Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance, visited Norway from 18 to 21 September to hold lectures on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. Radhakrishna, an acclaimed international speaker, held lectures in over 30 countries about transformational leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. During the visit, she held lectures at Sjøholmen Art and Culture House, Bærum; Nesbru High School, Blindern High School, Sagene Junior High School, Oslo and Vishwa Hindu Parishad Norway, Oslo.