



Embassy of India

Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः

- ऋग्वेद-1.89.

Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions in the universe

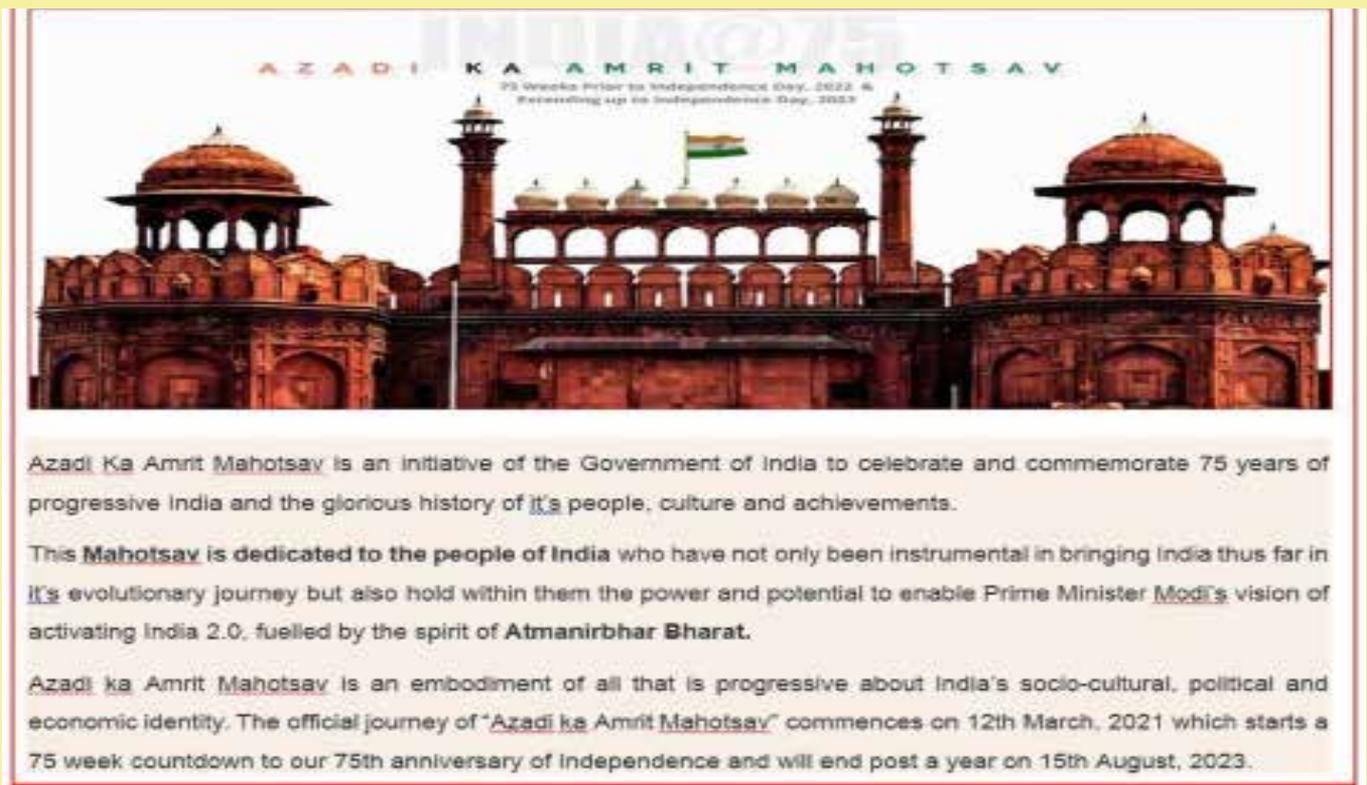
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Vol. 4, March 2021

1. India@75

PM Modi launched a website to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', the government's initiative to mark 75 years of India's Independence on 12 March, 2021. He also flagged off the 'Padyatra' (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad and inaugurated the curtain raiser activities of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (India@75). The date coincided with the date of launch of Dandi March by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930.



2. India fights Corona

India has so far given 53 million doses. Administered second vaccine dose to more than 85% of the eligible Health Care Workers. India's #COVID19 recovery rate is 95.28% as on March 25, 2021

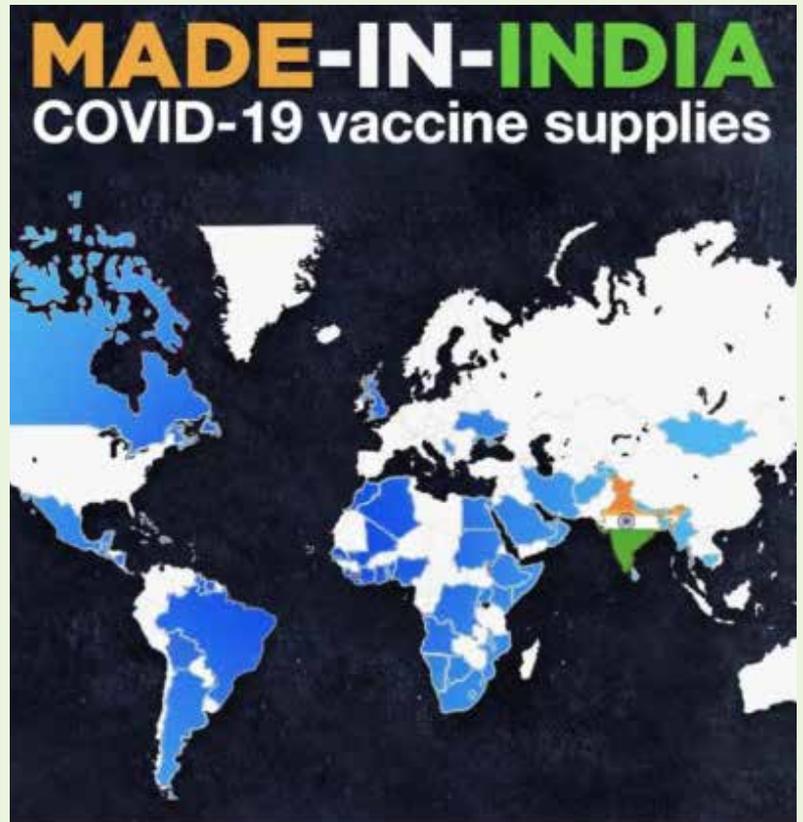
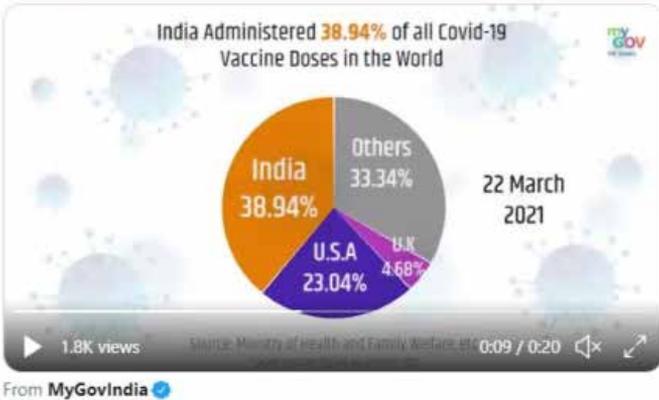
From April 1, everybody who is over 45 years of age will be eligible for COVID19 vaccination, irrespective of co-morbidities.



Leading the world, the India way! India administered almost 39% of the total Covid vaccines doses in the world. 🇮🇳

#LargestVaccineDrive #IndiaFightsCorona

@IndianDiplomacy
 @MEAIndia @DrSJaishankar @MoHFW_India
 @PIB_India @PMOIndia @MIB_India



3. At US\$ 36 billion, FPI inflows into equities at record high since FY13:

IBEF: March 22, 2021

According to the latest Reserve Bank of India data, foreign portfolio investors have poured a record US\$ 36 billion into equities in FY21 up to March 10, 2021, the highest since FY13. Net foreign direct investment inflows increased to US\$ 44 billion by the end of January 2021, up from US\$ 36.3 billion in January 2020, owing to massive inflows in November and December 2020, with the most recent inflows occurring in November 2020.



4. PM addressed International Conference on Disaster resilient Infrastructure

Press Information Bureau: March 18, 2021

The Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi addressed the opening ceremony of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure through video conference. Prime Minister of Fiji, Prime Minister of Italy, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom were present on the occasion. The Prime Minister noted that the pandemic has shown how the world can come together. The Prime Minister cautioned that the lessons from the pandemic must not be forgotten. Cooperation is a must for ensuring the resilience of the global system. This partnership on resilient infrastructure must play its important role in helping meet some of those expectations.

5. PM inaugurated Maritime India Summit 2021; Ministry of Port Shipping and Waterways has created a list of 400 investable projects with an investment potential of Rs. 2.25 lakh crore: PM

Press Information Bureau: March 03, 2021

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maritime India Summit 2021' on 2nd March 2021. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister invited the world to come to India and be a part of India's growth trajectory. India is very serious about growing in the maritime sector and emerging as a leading Blue Economy of the world. He informed that capacity of major ports have increased from 870 million tonnes in 2014 to 1550 million tonnes now. Indian ports

have reduced waiting time for inbound and outbound cargo. He also informed that mega ports with world class infrastructure are being developed in VadHAVAN, Paradip and Deendayal Port in Kandla. The Prime Minister informed that the Ministry of Port Shipping and Waterways has created a list of 400 investable projects. These projects have an investment potential of \$ 31 billion or Rs. 2.25 lakh crore (US\$ 30.64 billion).

He added that the Government is

keen to promote the use of renewable energy in the maritime sector. He said the Government is in the process of installing solar and wind-based power systems at all the major ports across the country and aims to increase usage of renewable energy to more than 60% of total energy by 2030 in three phases across Indian ports. The Prime Minister invited the global investors to be part India's progress in Maritime sector and Indian ports part of trade and commerce.

6. Bill to Increase FDI in Insurance Sector Gets Parliament's approval

IBEF: March 23, 2021

The parliament approved a bill to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector from 49% to 74%. Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, who is piloting the Bill, stated that increasing the FDI limit in the insurance sector will support insurers in boosting additional funds and overcoming financial issues.

The minister also stated that the FDI limit was raised following the recommendations of the regulator IRDAI, which conducted extensive discussion with stakeholders. Following the government's decision to raise the cap from 26% to 49% in 2015, FDI inflows into the insurance sector grown substantially.

She stated that FDI in the insurance sector has totaled Rs. 26,000 crore (US\$ 3.59 billion) since 2015, and that the asset under management (AUM) in the sector has increased by 76% over the last five years.

7. Launching of Europe India Business Council (EIBC)

EIBC is an international non-profit association based in Brussels which aims to promote the bilateral relationship between the European Union and the Republic of India on economics, trade, political, ecological and social fronts, through a series of

high value exchanges, activations and events. To mark the launch of the EBIC, an exclusive High Level Dialogue was held with 20 business and government leaders on 24 March 2021 virtually. The keynote speakers at event were Mr. Søren Gade, Chairman of EIBC, Member

of European Parliament, and Chair of the Delegation for relations with India, Mr. Santosh Jha, the Ambassador of India to the EU, Belgium & Luxembourg, and Mr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, Head of the Foreign Affairs Department BJP.





7. Webinar to promote trade in Marine products

Embassy of India Brussels in liaison with MPEDA and Port of Antwerp, organized a three part webinar series, which was held between Jan to March 2021. The series inaugurated with EU associations and DG MARE sharing the market scenario for fishery imports in Europe. The second part concentrated towards EU Regulations and market opportunities, while the last part was a Virtual Buyer Seller Meet where 17 Indian exporters shared their product profiles and approached EU importers online. The series had 109+ visitors and attendees from India and EU.



8. Virtual Trade fair cum expo for Indian oil seeds

Embassy of India, Brussels in coordination with IOPEPC and Eol, Copenhagen and Bratislava, organized a trade fair cum expo for Indian oilseeds, oils, spices and raisins on 23rd March

2021. The event attracted 300+ registrations and 500+ visitors. It was an interactive platform to have a one to one video chats with Indian exporters.

