

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 75th Independence Day of India, Embassy of India organized several events including webinar on Education and a business meet in August 2021.

Embassy News

“Incredible India – Your favourite Touristic Destination



Embassy of India, Beirut organised a tourism event “Incredible India – Your favourite Touristic Destination” focusing on States of Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan on July 16, 2021 at 1130 hrs in hybrid mode with the participation of State Tourism Promotion Board of Madhya Pradesh, State Tourism Promotion Board of Rajasthan, Association and Travel and Tourism Agents in Lebanon (ATTAL) and with the support of India Tourism Office Dubai.

Ambassador Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan made welcome remarks and gave an overview of touristic landscape of India.

On behalf of the Tourism Promotion Board of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary Tourism, Govt of Madhya Pradesh gave opening remarks. Later, the team from Tourism Promotion Board of Madhya Pradesh made a detailed presentation. Madhya Pradesh, the incredible heart of India embodies a blend of architectural grandeurs, pristine & unexplored destinations and cultural values. It is indeed a one stop destination for both national and international tourists. The state is endowed with a rich heritage and is known for its numerous monuments, palaces, fortresses, stupas, diverse wildlife, beautifully engraved Asian temples and hill stations. Apart from having UNESCO approved world heritage sites like the Khajuraho Group of Monuments, Sanchi Stupa and Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka, the state is home to 10 stunning national parks, 25 wonderful wildlife sanctuaries and 6 tremendous Tiger Reserves. The Tourism Board of Rajasthan, represented by Ms. Gayatri Rathore, Principal Secretary Tourism, Govt of Rajasthan showcased the state of vibrant folk dance and music, gigantic forts and palaces, spicy food, colourful and large turbans, extensive golden sand desert, camels and rich handicraft. It is an incredible place to visit in India for enjoying unforgettable holidays. Sprawling in an area of 342239 sq km, Rajasthan is perfect for history buffs, culture aficionados, adventure lovers, wildlife enthusiasts, family vacations, honeymoon, and more. The event was attended by Mr. Antoine Assi, Director, Ministry of Tourism of Lebanon, Mr. Jean Abboud, President of Association and Travel and Tourism Agents in Lebanon (ATTAL) and Ms. Myriam Shouman, Member of Association for Development of Lebanese Indian Relations (ADLIR) and by several tour operators based in Lebanon.

Embassy News



Meeting with journalist Nidal Chehab

Senior journalist Nidal Chehab met with Ambassador of India Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan on 15 July 2021 and presented him the latest copy of Seasons Magazine. The Magazine carries Ambassador's interview on the occasion of launch of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav in Lebanon.

Interview of Ambassador of India on MTV Lebanon

Ambassador of India Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan appeared on mtvlebanon on 2nd August 2021 along with Ms. Imane Kamal, Director of Elite Centre, Tripoli for an Interview. They spoke about cooperation between Embassy & Elite Centre on various activities as part of India@75 celebrations. Ambassador Khan also spoke about educational opportunities in India for the Lebanese students and invited them to join the Education Webinar being organised by the Embassy on August 5.



Embassy News



Interview of Ambassador of India on Noorsat

Ambassador of India to Lebanon Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan recorded an interview with Senior Media Presenter Ms. Joelle Antoine Aziz for #Noorsat English TV on 3rd August 2021. During the interview, Ambassador Khan spoke about India@75 & many related themes. The Interview will be on air soon.

Meeting with HE Zeina Akar

Ambassador Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan called on Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs & Immigrants, H.E. Zeina Akar on August 3, 2021 and discussed issues of mutual importance & ways to strengthen India -Lebanon relations.



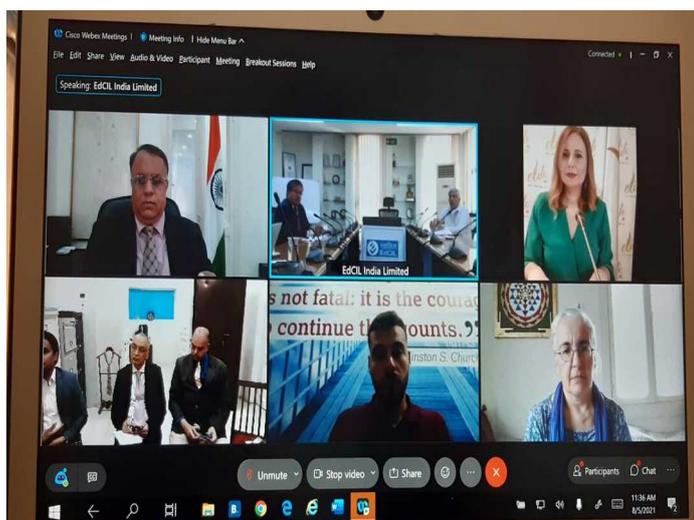
Meeting with Gen. Karnib

Ambassador Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan and HOC Shri Sandeep Grover had a meeting on 10 August 2021 with General Dr Moussa Karnib, Chief of Diplomatic Security and had a cordial discussion on wide ranging issues.



Embassy News

Webinar on “Educational Opportunities in India”



Embassy of India in Beirut on Thursday organized a Webinar on “Educational Opportunities in India” for Lebanese students with the support of Elite Center, Tripoli and Educational Consultants of India (EdCIL) on 05 August 2021.

The event was attended by Mr. P.K.S. Shishodia, CGM, EdCIL, Dr. Shaik Suleman, General Manager, EdCIL, Ms. Iman Kamali, Director of Elite Center, Tripoli, Mr. Nidal Nassar from Modern University for Business and Science (MUBS), Prof. Bassam Lahoud, Senior Instructor, School of Architecture, Lebanese American University (LAU) and Ms. Rima Saab, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture, Head of Fine Arts Department of Lebanese University (LU). Apart from the these speakers, many Lebanese students attended the event from Elite Center, Tripoli and virtually.

Ambassador Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan made the welcoming remarks and spoke about scholarships offered by ICCR & Study in India programmes of Government of India. Ambassador also spoke on recently signed MoU between Delhi University and Lebanese University. The MoU will pave the way for students and faculty exchange programmes from both sides.

Ms. Iman Kamali spoke on various educational opportunities available to Lebanese students and encourage them to study in India.

Mr. P.K.S. Shishodia, CGM, EdCIL thanked Ambassador Dr. Khan to hold the webinar and made his introductory remarks. Dr. Shaik Suleman, General Manager, EdCIL made a very comprehensive presentation covering all aspects of education opportunities in India available to foreign students and different scholarship programmes in the universities. He also spoke on the new education policy of the Government of India and how it is beneficial for the students.

Prof. Bassam Lahoud, Sr. Instructor at LAU shared his experience about architecture, food, places while he was in Kolkata. He inspired students to avail this opportunity to study in India. Ms. Rima Saab, Assistant Profeestor at LU also shared her experience about learning Indian languages, Hindi and Sanskrit. She also shared many ideas where educational institute of both India and Lebanon can collaborate in. Mr. Nidal Nassar from MUBS also expressed keen desire to collaborate with Indian Universities and colleges.

The webinar was well received by all participants. Ambassador Dr. Khan answered all questions and cleared all doubts of the Lebanese students.

Lebanese students desirous of studying in India may look at the following websites: <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in> and <https://www.studyinindia.gov.in>, <https://dasanit.org/dasa2021> or get in touch with the Embassy at info.beirut@mea.gov.in

Embassy News

“India@75: An Incredible Growth Story”. The Meet



As part of ongoing activities related to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and on the occasion of upcoming 75th Independence Day of India, Embassy of India organized a Business Meet and Gala Dinner under the theme “India@75: An Incredible Growth Story”. The Meet was attended by representative of various Chambers of Commerce and other top businessmen from Beirut, Saida, Bekka, Choufeiat and Mount Lebanon.

Ambassador Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan in his remarks spoke about India’s incredible growth story, strong fundamentals of Indian economy and various measures taken by Government of India during past 7 years to make India a favorite destination for investments and doing business. Ambassador also spoke about post -covid economic recovery in India and informed that India is already emerging fast from the Covid related slow down and is on the path to be again one of the fastest growing economies in the World. He also spoke about Indian economy reaching 5 trillion-dollar mark in next few years.

Ambassador invited Lebanese businessmen to expand their business ties with India and look at “Import Substitution” by moving their source markets for their import needs to India. He said India could be source of large number of import requirements in Lebanon particularly in Engineering Goods, Food and Allied products and Drugs and Pharmaceuticals. He said Indian products are not only World class but also very cost-efficient which will bring down import bill of Lebanon. He also recognized successful business presence in India of the Lebanese companies, Future Pipes, Dar Al Hindasa and Khatib wa Alamy.

News of The Month

Minister Dr. Singh: India Aims to Target over 100 Billion “Blue Economy” Through Deep Ocean Mission and Ocean Resources



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said on Monday 12 July that in the years to come, India aims to target over 100 billion “Blue Economy” through its Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) and ocean resources.

Addressing the scientists in the Ministry of Earth Sciences here, the Minister reiterated the importance of exploring the ocean to give further fillip to the growth of country's economy. He said, this could be a new avenue to supplement the country's economy to the tune of an estimated Rs. 110 billion. “Deep Ocean Mission” planned by the Ministry of Earth Sciences will be carried out in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and it will be a major step in the direction of integrating and bringing together the efforts of the different streams of science operating under different Ministries in the government, he said.

In addition, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the “Deep Ocean Mission” will also have far-reaching benefits for the common man. For example, it could help in providing clean drinking water and explore the avenues of desalination of water as well as extracting minerals from the ocean belt.

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News of The Month

The Minister directed the officials of India Meteorological Department (IMD) to use social media platforms more effectively, so that accurate information can be disseminated quickly. Achievements of the Ministry, especially those benefiting the common man need to be highlighted through the Media, he said. He urged the officials to cut down on wasteful expenditure and explore the feasibility of merging autonomous bodies under the Ministry.

Director Generals, senior scientists and officials of the administrative wings of the Ministry attended the review meeting.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has ten Institutes including five autonomous bodies under its ambit. The Ministry carries out its research & development and operational activities under five major umbrella schemes.



News of The Month

India's maritime journey: From Lothal to the horseshoe table

With a coastline of over 7,500 kms, comprising 1,200 islands, the oceans have always been central to India's ethos. Our rich maritime history goes back to at least the 3rd millennium BC, when the inhabitants of the Indus Valley civilization engaged in maritime trade with Mesopotamia. The archaeological remains of the world's first dock at Lothal in Gujarat bear testimony to India's prowess as a sea-faring nation even thousands of years ago. Today, almost 90% of India's international trade is through maritime routes. It's in our interest that the sea lanes are rendered as pathways to mutual prosperity and corridors for peace.

India has made its mark as a net provider of security in the Indian Ocean region and beyond, including as a first responder for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. India's swift response to recent requests from its neighbours in the western Indian Ocean is in conformity with the PM's vision of both SAGAR and 'Vasudeva Kutumbkam'. The Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram has become a hub for maritime information exchange, with several countries deploying liaison officers. The Indian Navy has intensified anti-piracy operations, while also providing training and capacity building assistance to partner countries. Marine pollution control is a new element, where India has responded to calls for assistance by Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

As several speakers at Monday's UNSC debate noted, India's success in steering the council to discuss an issue that had remained outside its consideration represented a remarkable breakthrough. Previous attempts to get the council to deliberate on maritime security did not succeed due to differing perceptions among members, particularly the P-5. Monday's debate did bring out the fault lines clearly. Yet, the council adopted an outcome document in the form of a Presidential Statement by consensus. India's global stature and its constructive bridging role made the difference, proving that intractable global issues can indeed be progressed.

By successfully hosting this Presidency Open Debate, India has established its credentials as a responsible actor on the world stage. A positive outcome from the first signature event of our Presidency has only strengthened our belief that myriad global challenges can be addressed and resolved through a reformed UNSC, reflective of contemporary realities. And with India taking its rightful place at the famed Horseshoe Table as a permanent member.

News of The Month

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the United Nations Security Council debate on “Enhancing Maritime Security: A Case for International Cooperation”. In more ways than one, this was a historic first.

To begin with, it was the first time that an Indian Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the UNSC. It was also the first time that maritime security was discussed under the agenda item of international peace and security. While the council has in the past discussed issues related to piracy and armed robbery at sea, this was the first such holistic discussion. And finally, to mark the convening of this event by India, the Council adopted a Presidential Statement on Maritime Security — first such UNSC outcome document on the subject — with the unanimous consent of all 15 member states.

The UNSC Presidential Statement reaffirmed that international law, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, sets out the legal framework applicable to oceanic endeavours. It drew attention to the use of the sea by terrorists, as was the case in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, and called for capacity building and sharing of effective practices to combat such crimes. Further, it took note of the continuing problem of transnational organised crime at sea. It emphasised safeguarding legitimate uses of oceans, the lives and livelihoods of seafarers and coastal communities.

The event saw high-level participation from UNSC member states, with four Heads of State / Government and 10 ministers present. This reflected India’s international standing as well as the global stature of our Prime Minister. In his remarks, Prime Minister Modi proposed five principles, as a framework for international cooperation in maritime security. These included the need for removing barriers to legitimate maritime trade; resolving maritime disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law; jointly fighting maritime threats from natural disasters and non-state actors; conserving maritime environment and resources; and promoting responsible maritime connectivity.

These five principles are a natural extension of India's stated positions on enhancing maritime security. It was in 2015 that the PM had first enunciated the concept of SAGAR or ‘Security and Growth for All in the Region’. This was followed by his 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue speech in Singapore, where he outlined India's Indo-Pacific Vision. In 2019, the PM launched the ‘Indo-Pacific Oceans’ Initiative’ at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, , proposing seven pillars for cooperation among states in the maritime domain.

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News of The Month

PM expresses happiness on UNESCO declaring Kakatiya Ramappa Temple a World Heritage site



On 25 July 2021, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed happiness on UNESCO declaring Kakatiya Ramappa Temple a World Heritage site. He also urged people to visit this majestic Temple complex and get a first-hand experience of it's grandness.

Reacting to a tweet by UNESCO, the Prime Minister said;

"Excellent! Congratulations to everyone, specially the people of Telangana.

The iconic Ramappa Temple showcases the outstanding craftsmanship of great Kakatiya dynasty. I would urge you all to visit this majestic Temple complex and get a first-hand experience of it's grandness."

Featured Stories



Madhubani Painting

Madhubani painting, also referred to as Mithila Art (as it flourishes in the Mithila region of Bihar), is characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns. This style of painting has been traditionally done by the women of the region, though today men are also involved to meet the demand. These paintings are popular because of their tribal motifs and use of bright earthy colours. These paintings are done with mineral pigments prepared by the artists. The work is done on freshly plastered or a mud wall.

For commercial purposes, the work is now being done on paper, cloth, canvas etc. Cotton wrapped around a bamboo stick forms the brush. Black colour is obtained by mixing soot with cow dung; yellow from turmeric or pollen or lime and the milk of banyan leaves; blue from indigo; red from the kusam flower juice or red sandalwood; green from the leaves of the wood apple tree; white from rice powder; orange from palasha flowers. The colours are applied flat with no shading and no empty space is left.

Figures from nature & mythology are adapted to suit their style. The themes & designs widely painted are of Hindu deities such as Krishna, Rama, Siva, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Sun and Moon, Tulasi plant, court scenes, wedding scenes, social happenings etc. Floral, animal and bird motifs, geometrical designs are used to fill up all the gaps. The skill is handed down the generations, and hence the traditional designs and patterns are widely maintained.

In order to create a source of non-agricultural income, the All India Handicrafts Board and the Government of India have been encouraging the women artists to produce their traditional paintings on handmade paper for commercial sale. Madhubani painting has become a primary source of income for scores of families. The continuing market in this art throughout the world is a tribute to the resourcefulness of the women of Mithila who have successfully transferred their techniques of bhitti chitra or wall painting to the medium of paper.

India Tourism

Andaman & Nicobar

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located in the east of the Indian mainland geographically, is a splendid island in the Bay of Bengal. These picturesque undulating islands, islets numbering around 572, are covered with dense rain-fed, damp and evergreen forests and endless varieties of exotic flora and fauna. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been declared as two of the 218 endemic bird area of the world. As many as 270 species and sub-species of birds have been reported existing in these islands, 106 of them being endemic. The Andaman Wood Pigeon, Andaman Padauk and Dugong are declared as State Bird, State Tree and State Animal respectively. There are about 96 Wildlife Sanctuaries, nine National Parks and one Biosphere Reserve in the islands. These islands are blessed with the bounties of both south-west and north-east monsoons. Most of these islands (about 550) are in the Andaman Group, 28 of which are inhabited. The smaller Nicobars, comprise some 22 main islands (10 inhabited).

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS



India's only confirmed active volcano is located in Barren Island, which lies about 135 km south of the territory's capital, Port Blair. Barren Island is a craggy rocky island, about 3 km in diameter, and the volcano last erupted here in 1991 and then again in 1994-95. The crater of the volcano that often spews smoke and lets out bursts of light in the sky, is about half a kilometre from the shore. This cruise is an exhilarating experience as your ship cuts through the vast expanse of the sea.



With its silver sandy beaches and rich historical heritage, Port Blair acts as a gateway to the picturesque Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Perfect for tourists, Port Blair, which is the capital of Andaman and Nicobar islands, has plenty of eco-friendly beach resorts along its meandering coastline. These offer multiple options for boating, swimming, snorkeling, sea cruises and sightseeing.



Andaman and Nicobar Islands is home to over 560 species of corals. Coral reefs cover about 2,000 sq km of the area of the Island(almost 6% of the total area). The fringing reefs on the eastern side and the barrier reefs on the western sides make for a beautiful sight. In a typical reef, one will find corals, clams, sponges, snails, anemones, crabs, starfish, worms, shrimps, lobsters etc. You can also spot various species of fish like damselfish, groupers, surgeonfish, butterflyfish etc.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.incredibleindia.org/content/incredible-india-v2/en/destinations/states/andaman-and-nicobar.html>

Upcoming Events

14th Edition Of International Railway Equipment Exhibition (Physical)

14th edition of IREE is scheduled from 21-23 October 2021 at New Delhi organised by Confederation of Indian Industry in association with the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. IREE serves as a Global Platform for Railway Technology & Services. This is the largest event for the Rail Transportation Sector in this part of the world.

More details: www.ireeindia.com

Self-financing Scheme For Studying In India, 2021-22

Applications are invited from Lebanese students for nominations to undergraduate courses in Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.), Bachelor of Pharmacy, MBBS & BDS under Self-Financing Scheme for the academic year 2021-22.

More details:

<https://www.indianembassybeirut.gov.in/notice/display/1211/14>

Admissions are open for #NalandaUniversity

An avant-garde, postgraduate, research-intensive Intl. institution of academic excellence with the Ministry of External Affairs (@MEAIndia) & supported by the 17 Member countries of the East Asia Summit.

More details:

<https://nalandauniv.edu.in/admissions/admission-process/>

For other forthcoming events organised by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, please visit:

<http://www.ficci.in/forthcoming-events-more.asp>

Useful Links



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