

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



सत्यमेव जयते

CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
HO CHI MINH CITY

During the last quarter of 2019, the Consulate was actively involved in a number of commercial and cultural activities. On the bilateral front, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary of India visited Vietnam to participate in the 12th India-Vietnam Annual Security Dialogue. Ambassador Shri Pranay Verma paid a visit to Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Duong Province in the last week of November, 2019. A delegation from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B) comprising 30 MBA students and two faculty members also visited Ho Chi Minh City as a part of their course study programme. A delegation from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi also visited HCMC Universities to popularize the 1,000 fellowships granted for ASEAN citizens for PhD programmes as announced by Prime Minister of India. Consulate also participated in the 26th HCMC Consular Club Charity Bazar in the month of November.

In the southern provinces of Vietnam, Binh Duong Province established its Vietnam – India Friendship Association (VIFA) and held its first Congress which was attended by Consul General. Consulate also celebrated 55th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) Day in Ho Chi Minh City and My Tho City in Tien Giang Province. A 12-member ICCR sponsored Contemporary Dance Troupe led by Mr. Santosh Nair also visited Ho Chi Minh City and My Tho City and gave an enthralling performance during the ITEC Day celebrations.

Keeping up the spirit of Gandhi@150, Consulate organized Gandhi Jayanti and International Day of Non-Violence on 2nd October, 2019 at the Consulate premises with much zeal. A seminar on “Vietnamese and Indian Heritages: Cross Cultural Relations” was organized in University of Social Sciences and Humanities was also organized in this context. Consulate also celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji by organizing ardaas and kirtan followed by langar in the Consulate premises which was attended by a large number of Indian Community. This was the first time Guru Nanak Jayanti was celebrated in such a large scale in Ho Chi Minh City. Regional festivals like Durgostav and Diwali were also celebrated by the Indian Community with much exuberance.

During the quarter, Consulate was engaged in many economic and commercial activities. Consulate assisted many Indian delegations to participate in the trade fairs and exhibitions which happened in Ho Chi Minh City. B2B meetings were also arranged by the Consulate for some of these visiting delegations so that the delegations can have a interaction with their Vietnamese counter parts. To utilize the momentum created by the direct flights between India and Vietnam, a road show on Incredible India Tourism was also organized by the Consulate in coordination with India Tourism Office, Singapore; HCMC Department of Tourism and HCMC Tourism Association.

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ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF VIETNAM



Contemporary Dance Performance by ICCR Troupe in Tien Giang Province



Visit to Dong Thap Province



At the invitation of Dong Thap Union of Friendship Organizations (DUFO), Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy visited Cao Lanh City in Dong Thap province on 03rd October 2019. During the visit, Consul General met with Mr. Pham Thien Nghia, Vice Chairman of the provincial People's Committee and senior officials from the province and discussed cooperation in areas of trade, investment, education, culture and people to people exchanges between the province and India. He also visited Dong Thap University and interacted with Dr. Pham Minh Gian, Vice-Rector, faculties and students of the University. Consul General was accompanied by Mr. Munish Gupta, Vice-Chairman, Indian Business Chamber (INCHAM) and Dr. Huynh Thanh Lap, Chairman, Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA) in HCMC city.

The first Congress of the Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA) was held in Binh Duong Province on 10th November, 2019 to launch the VIFA in the province. Ms. Vu Thi Van Huong was elected as the Chairwoman of VIFA, Binh Duong Province for the term 2019-24.

Binh Duong province became the 5th province under the Consular jurisdiction and 7th province in Vietnam after Hanoi, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City, Phu Yen, Can Tho and Bac Lieu to establish the VIFA. The event was attended by around 150 persons including Vice-Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee and other important local dignitaries.

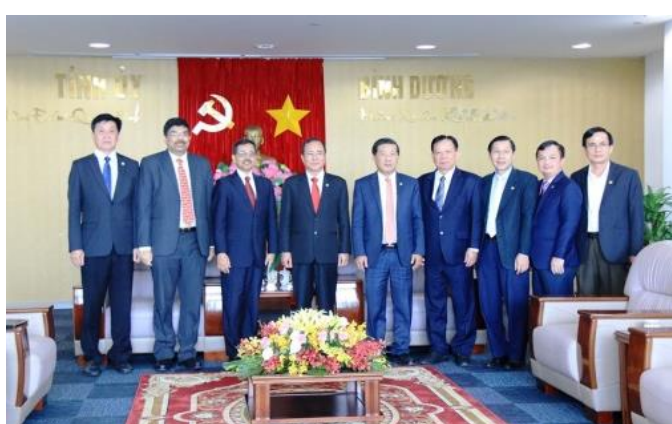
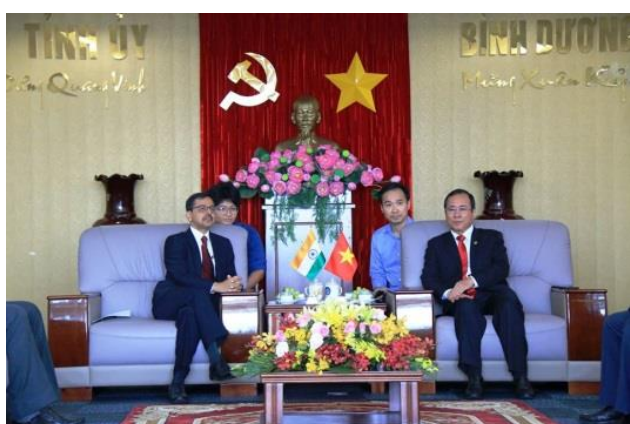


Consulate General of India celebrated the 55th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day in Ho Chi Minh City and My Tho City in Tien Giang Province on 23rd & 24th October, 2019 respectively. In Ho Chi Minh City, the event was attended by approximately 300 people including 75 ITEC alumni from neighbouring provinces, faculty and staff members from universities and institutions and community members whereas in My Tho City along with the ITEC Day celebrations, the Province also celebrated the 47th anniversary of diplomatic relations between both the countries. Approximately 600 people including ITEC alumni from neighbouring provinces, faculty and students from different universities and institutions of the province attended the event in My Tho City. A 12-member ICCR sponsored contemporary dance troupe led by Mr. Santosh Nair also performed during the celebrations in Ho Chi Minh City and My Tho City.





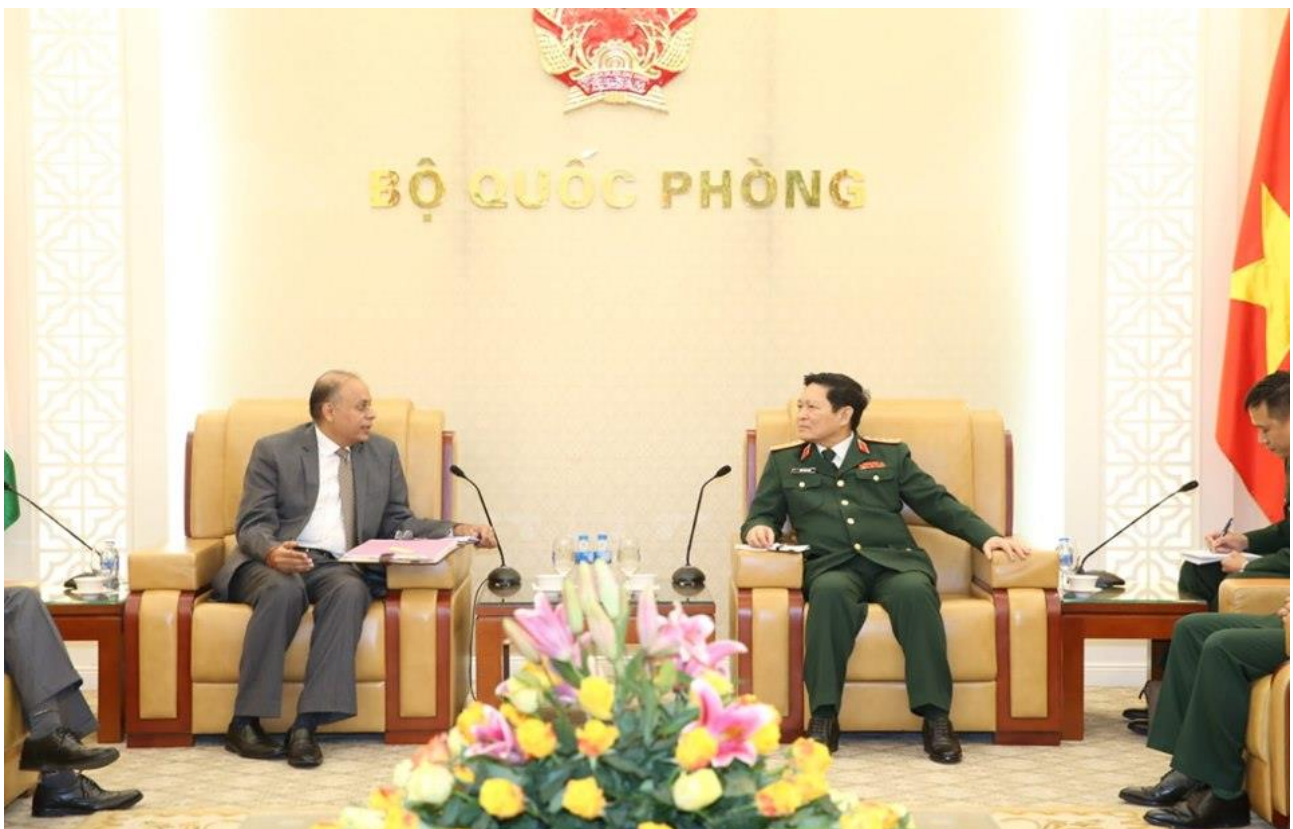
On the invitation of An Giang University to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the University, on behalf of the Consulate, Consul & Head of Chancery, Mr. R. O. Sunil Babu attended the celebrations on 20th November, 2019.



Ambassador Shri Pranay Verma visited Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and Binh Duong province on 27-28th November 2019. During his visit, Ambassador inaugurated the India pavilion at the VINACHEM Expo 2019 and participated in the 'Incredible India tourism roadshow' on 27th November. He also paid a visit to the Indian religious properties in HCMC. Ambassador also visited Binh Duong province on 28th November, 2019 where apart from calling on the Provincial Authorities, he visited the Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park (VSIP-1) and interacted with the representatives of Indian companies and members of the recently established Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA) in Binh Duong.



BILATERAL



Defence Secretary of India, Dr. Ajay Kumar held the 12th round of India-Vietnam Annual Security Dialogue with the Deputy Defence Minister of Vietnam, Sr. Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh in Ho Chi Minh City on October 3rd, 2019. The two sides reviewed on-going defence partnership and identified new areas of cooperation. During the visit, Defence Secretary also called on the Defence Minister of Vietnam, H.E. Gen. Ngo Xuan Lich on October 4, 2019.

ECONOMIC & COMMERCIAL



Inauguration of the Indian Pavilion at METALEX Vietnam 2019



Incredible India Tourism Roadshow 2019

The 19th Vietnam International Plastics and Rubber Industry Exhibition (VietnamPlas) was held from 03-06 October 2019 at Saigon Exhibition & Convention Center (SECC), Ho Chi Minh City. 16 Indian companies, including 13 companies led by PLEXCONCIL (The Plastics Export Promotion Council) that received support under the DOC's MAI scheme participated in the event. Consul General, Dr. K. Srikar Reddy visited the exhibition and interacted with the Indian exhibitors and Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL. Around 580 exhibitors from 18 countries and territories participated in the exhibition.



In connection with the launch of the direct flight between Kolkata - Ho Chi Minh City route w.e.f. 18th October 2019, a roadshow was organized by Indi Go, India's low-cost Airlines, on 09 October 2019 at Vinpearl Landmark 81 hotel in Ho Chi Minh City. This is Indi Go's second direct route to Vietnam after the route of Kolkata-Hanoi. Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the roadshow and congratulated Indi Go on the launch of the Kolkata-Ho Chi Minh City route.

Consul General, in his remarks mentioned that the opening of Ho Chi Minh City to Kolkata route is of great significance in deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership between both countries, especially in areas of trade, investment, culture, tourism and people to people exchanges.

Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the BMI Global Education Fair Vietnam October 2019 on 11th October, 2019 and inaugurated the India Pavilion 'Study in India'. Consul General also interacted with the 10 Institutes from India who participated in the Fair. The 'Study in India' programme aims to make India the preferred destination for education leveraging value for money and globally competitive standard of education. The programme has already attracted 70,000+ registrations in the academic cycle of 2019-20.



The 13th edition of METALEX VIETNAM 2019, one of the most established exhibitions for machine tools and metalworking technology in the South East Asia Region, was organized by Reed Tradex at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre (SECC), Ho Chi Minh City from 10-12th October 2019. India was the partner country at the event and 56 Indian companies led by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India, the country's apex organization for promotion of engineering exports, exhibited in the Expo with the support received from Department of Commerce under the MAI scheme. Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy participated in the opening ceremony of METALEX Vietnam, inaugurated the India Pavilion and interacted with the Indian exhibitors. A B2B event for the visiting Indian delegation was also organized on 11th October, 2019 by the Consulate in coordination with the Agency for Southern Affairs of Ministry of Industry and Trade (ASA) and Ho Chi Minh City Association of Machinery and Electric Enterprises (HAMEE). Over 100 people, including representatives of Indian and Vietnamese Engineering companies, Mr. Ngo Xuan Ty, Official (Trade Promotion), ASA, and Mr. Do Phuoc Tong, Chairman, HAMEE participated in the event.



In order to capitalize the opportunity due to the start of direct flights between India and Vietnam and increase the tourism cooperation between both the countries, Department of Tourism in Ho Chi Minh City organized a Talkshow on India Indian Tourism Market Promotion 2020. The talkshow attracted major tour operators from Vietnam and was attended by 31 tour operators and 13 hospitality enterprises. Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the event and invited the tourists from Vietnam to explore India by utilizing the direct connectivity between both the countries.



The 14th Vietnam International Exhibition on Chemical Industry – VINACHEM EXPO 2019 was held at Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC) in HCMC from 27-30 Nov 2019. Ambassador Mr. Pranay Verma along with Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy inaugurated the India Pavilion on 27th November, 2019 and interacted with the Indian exhibitors. 46 Indian companies led by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) participated in the event.



The 19th Vietnam International Textile and Garment Industry Exhibition - VTG 2019 and the 19th Textile and Garment accessories exhibition – VitaTex were held at Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC) from 20-23rd November 2019. Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy inaugurated the India Pavillion on 20th November and interacted with the Indian exhibitors. 60 Indian companies led by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India (TEXPROCIL) and the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council of India (SRTEPC) exhibited in the Expos. On 21st November 2019, the Consulate in coordination with the Vietnam Textile & Apparel Association (VITAS), Vietnam Cotton and Spinning Association (VCOSA) and Ho Chi Minh City Textile and Garment - Embroidery Association (AGTEK) organized a B2B event for the visiting Indian industry delegation. Over 150 persons, including representatives of Indian and Vietnamese Textile and Garment companies participated in the event.



Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City, in collaboration with the India Tourism Office, Singapore and in coordination with the HCMC Department of Tourism, HCMC Tourism Association and Indian Business Chamber (INCHAM), organized a 'Visit Incredible India' Tourism Roadshow in Ho Chi Minh City on 27th November 2019. The event was organized in the backdrop of the launch of direct flights between India and Vietnam by Indian Indi Go Airlines in October 2019 and the Vietjet Air in December 2019. In his opening remarks, Ambassador of India to Vietnam Mr. Pranay Verma urged the tourists from Vietnam to 'Visit Incredible India' to experience different flavours of India and emphasized that the launch of direct flights between both the countries will aid in deepening the comprehensive strategic



In order to enhance trade and investment promotion activities between foreign trade representatives in Vietnam and Vietnam local partners, Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VIETRADE) under the Ministry of Industry and trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, organized an Investment Seminar on 29th November, 2019 between Ba Ria – Vung Tau Province, southern provinces and foreign diplomats, trade representatives in Ba Ria - Vung Tau Province. Consul & Head of Chancery, Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu attended the seminar which was attended by around 48 Vietnamese enterprises in seafood, mechanical engineering, argo-forestry, apparel and other industries.



Consul & Head of Chancery, Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu attended the Hardware & Hand Tools Expo on 5th December, 2019 at SECC, Ho Chi Minh City. Two Indian companies participated in the expo.



Consul General, Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the “Kirloskar Night” - an event to launch the new product “1010kVA Diesel Generating Set” of Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited (KOEL) on 5th December, 2019. Kirloskar group is one of the pioneers of engineering industry in India with experience of more than 130 years. In his remarks, Consul General congratulated the Kirloskar team for the launch of their new product and gave a brief glimpse about the India-Vietnam relations.



CULTURAL OUTREACH



550th Guru Nanak Jayanti celebrations



Celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

The Indian community in Ho Chi Minh City celebrated Durgotsav 2018 from 4-8th October 2018 at Sri Thendayuthapani and Mariamman Hindu temples. Consul General attended the opening ceremony of the Durgotsav in Sri Thendayuthapani on 4th October and the closing ceremony in the Mariamman temple on 8th October, 2019.



Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence on 2nd October 2019. The event was held at the Chancery premises and graced by representatives from Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organization (HUFO), Vietnam India Friendship Association (VIFA), Indian Chamber of Commerce, friends of India and members of Indian community.



The Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM) organised Diwali Carnival 2019 on Saturday, November 02nd, 2019 at Vinpearl Luxury Landmark Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). The event was attended by approximately 800 people including a number of local dignitaries and Consul Generals from Thailand and U.K. Consul General in his remarks congratulated INCHAM for organizing the Diwali Carnival and commended their role in promoting the commercial and cultural relations between India and Vietnam.



Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City commemorated the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji on 24th November, 2019 by organizing special Kirtan, Ardaas and Langar. A photo exhibition on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Devji was also organized during the event. Consul General in his speech mentioned about Nanak's teachings and thanked the community in actively participating in organizing the celebrations. Postal stamps commemorating 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji issued by the Government of India were also released during the event. This is the first time the event has been organised on such a large scale which was attended by more than 200 people from the Indian Community. During the celebrations, a tree plantation was also done by Consul General, INCHAM members and members from the Sikh Community.



Constitution Day 2019 was celebrated in the Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City on 26th November, 2019. The event was held at the Chancery premises and was attended by INCHAM members and around 35 Indian Community members. During the event, a handing over ceremony of the charity amount collected by the members of the Malayalee Community (Onam@Saigon) as a fund raising campaign for supporting the family of one Indian national who expired, was also conducted. A documentary titled 'India: The Spirit of Freedom' was also telecasted during the event.



As a part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City in collaboration with the Faculty of Oriental Studies in University of Social Sciences & Humanities (USSH), organised a seminar titled Vietnamese and Indian Heritages: Cross Cultural Relations on 24th December 2019. In his remarks, Ambassador Pranay Verma spoke of historical and civilisational linkages between India and Vietnam and congratulated the Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA) on the 30th anniversary of its founding and appreciated its role in fostering friendship and understanding between the people of India and Vietnam. The seminar saw presentation of papers by eminent scholars on topics ranging from Buddhism, Mahatma Gandhi and Indian cultural influence with the scholars successfully amalgamating the topics, thus showcasing the deep influence of Indian philosophy and culture in Vietnamese life, spanning the two millennium of cultural contacts between people of the two countries. A book, with the same title, comprising of 22 research articles presented at the seminar, was also released on the occasion.



MISCELLANEOUS



Kathak performance at the 26th Consular Club Charity Bazaar 2019



Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the blood donation drive organized by Saigon Times Group on 12th October, 2019

Consulate General of India participated in the 26th HCMC Consular Club Charity Bazaar 2019 held on 9th November 2019 in the Adora Convention Centre and contributed VND 47,350,000/- for charity. Consular Club, HCMC is a non-profitable organization founded in 1994 and run by the spouses of Consulates' officials with the objective to support disadvantaged people in Southern Vietnam. Ms. Anupama Jha Kumar, Kathak dancer presented the Indian classical dance during the Opening Session of the Charity Bazaar 2019.



Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the International Seminar on “GENERATING GLOBAL SOLIDARITY PARTNERSHIPS” hosted by Global Achievers Foundation (G.A.F.) on Saturday 9th November, 2019 at Sheraton Saigon Hotel & Towers, Ho Chi Minh City. The Seminar highlighted the achievements and contributions of the prominent achievers of India who have contributed towards international development. Selected Individuals and organizations from all over India were also awarded during the Seminar for their contributions to International progress in health, education and economic development.

A delegation comprising of 30 MBA students and two faculty members from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore visited Ho Chi Minh City from 1 – 7th December, 2019 as a part of their course study. The main objective of the visit was to provide an opportunity for the students to have a direct perspective and to explore the various facets of Vietnam and understand the business practices prevalent in the country. During the visit, apart from the interacted with Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy, the delegation visited two business schools, had two factory visits, visited Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park and TATA Coffee Plant. With a view to understand the Vietnamese Government's efforts and strategies to attract foreign investment and doing business in Vietnam, the delegation also visited Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Vietnam Buddhist Research Institute organized the celebrations of 35 years of their establishment on 8th December, 2019 at their second campus in Ho Chi Minh City. Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu, Consul & Head of Chancery attended the event on behalf of the Consulate. Apart from the representatives of the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, the ceremony also saw participation from Central and Provincial government, Diplomatic missions, Buddhist universities, educational organizations from Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Taiwan. More than 3000 students and Buddhist followers also participated in the ceremony.



In order to boost friendly relations with the ASEAN countries and to enhance people-to-people ties between India and its immediate neighbors, Indian Government is offering 1000 fellowships for ASEAN citizens to pursue fully funded Ph.D programmes at the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs). To spread more awareness about this programme, a team comprising of three senior Professors from IIT, Delhi visited Ho Chi Minh City on 19th December, 2019 to meet key stakeholders in the education and innovation ecosystem, students & academicians in key universities. During their visit, the delegated visited HCMC University of Technology and Education, Hong Bang University and Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City.

To mark the end of 2019 and to welcome the new year of 2020, INCHAM organized a get together on 28th December, 2019. In his remarks, Consul General congratulated INCHAM for organizing the event and wished everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year 2020.

CONSULATE IN NEWS

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Ministry probes apartment building management

BUSINESS

State bank to lower cap on payment intermediaries

Viet Nam, India enhance co-operation in textile and garment sector

HCM CITY The garment industry has called for investment in the underdeveloped textile, dyeing and fabric segments to meet the global supply chain demand, according to the Viet Nam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS).

Speaking at a business interaction event titled India-Viet Nam Textile Co-operation event held in HCM City on Thursday, Vũ Đức Giang, VITAS chairman, invited Indian companies to invest in the yarn, weaving, dyeing, and printing segments to take advantage of the market access provided by free trade agreements that Viet Nam has signed.

He expressed hope that co-operation between India and Viet Nam

would benefit both countries.

K Srikar Reddy, the Indian consul general in the city, said: "Bilateral trade in textiles between India and Viet Nam has registered impressive growth during the last two years. Indian textile and clothing exports to Viet Nam grew 48 per cent during the last two years from US\$390 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year to \$578 million in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

"However, there is significant untapped potential for trade in the area of textiles between our countries."

Viet Nam is dependent on other countries for raw materials for garments such as cotton, yarn, made-ups, and fabrics and it is looking to diversify its sources.

According to Kalavathi Rao, executive of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council of India, India is the sixth largest producer of man-made fibre textile (MMFT) and exported more than \$6 billion worth of MMFT products to more than 150 countries in 2018-19.

Its exports to Viet Nam were worth \$103.7 million, she said.

India's share of Viet Nam's MMFT imports was 3.34 per cent, she said.

Dr Siddhartha Rajagopal, executive director of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India, said in 2018, while Viet Nam's total textile imports were worth \$27.9 billion, its imports from India were valued at \$640

million, or only 2.29 per cent.

India's imports were worth \$7.31 billion and imports from Viet Nam were worth \$300 million, he said.

Reddy said under the India-ASEAN FTA most types of yarns, woven and knit fabrics could be imported duty-free from India.

"India can become a reliable partner of Viet Nam in supplying yarn, fabrics, and machinery at competitive prices."

Rajagopal invited Vietnamese companies to participate in the IND-TEXPO (Reverse Buyer Seller meet) to be organised by TEXPROCIL from March 17 to 29 next year in Coimbatore.

Visitors from 40 countries were

expected to participate in the event for sourcing varieties of yarns, fabrics, made-ups, home textiles, and technical textiles from India, he said.

Approved buyers from Viet Nam would be eligible for full hospitality, including complementary return airfare, accommodation and local transport, he added.

Organised by the Indian consulate, VITAS, the Viet Nam Cotton and Spinning Association, and HCM City Textile and Garment -Embroidery Association, the event attracted 60 Indian companies who also participated in the 19th Viet Nam International Textile and Garment Industry Exhibition in HCM City from November 20 to 23 besides local firms. VNS

Indian Consulate General celebrates ITEC day in HCMC

By Do Lan
The Saigon Times Daily

The Consulate General of India kicked off the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program 2019 activities at the Youth Cultural House in HCMC on October 23.

The event was attended by about 300 guests, including 100 ITEC alumni in Vietnam and representatives of HCMC, neighboring cities and provinces, and Indian communities.

A contemporary dance performance titled "Mayurbhanj Chhau" by an Indian art troupe added excitement to the event.

The ITEC Program was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet on September 15, 1964 as a bilateral program of assistance of the Government of India. The objective of the program is to share the fruits of India's socio-economic development and technological achievements with the international community on the basis of partnership and cooperation for mutual benefit.

India's ITEC partnership with



PHOTO: DO LAN

Indian artists perform at the ITEC day in HCMC

Vietnam dates back to the 1970s. With more than 200 scholarships offered annually, Vietnam is one of the largest recipients of India's ITEC

scholarships. The ITEC Program has been an important vehicle to promote cooperation between the two countries in multiple fields.

CONSULATE IN NEWS

Việt Nam News

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BUSINESS

CORPORATE NEWS



India, VN eye engineering ties

HCM CITY Significant potential for growth in trade in the engineering sector exists between India and Việt Nam, a top Indian official has said.

Dr. K Srikar Reddy, Indian consul general in HCM City, said India has made considerable progress in engineering as shown in its record-high engineering exports over the last five years.

"Even at a time of global economic slowdown, we saw record-high engineering exports last year," Reddy said at an India-Việt Nam business interaction event held on Friday in HCM City.

"The brand value of Indian engineering has been rising rapidly in developed as well as emerging economies, while the Indian government has always been ready to make Indian exports globally competitive and to turn India into an exporter of high-value engineering products by addressing the technology gap and other concerns adequately and efficiently."