



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
HO CHI MINH CITY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
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The second quarter of 2020 continued to be a low-key affair with the rise in pandemic all over the world. Following the closure of international borders and suspension of international commercial flights, India saw many of its nationals stranded all over the world. With an aim to repatriate the stranded Indian nationals back, Government of India launched 'Vande Bharat Mission' which allowed Indians with compelling reasons to travel back to India. During this quarter, two such evacuation flights were arranged from Vietnam to India in which more than 285 Indians travelled back.

This quarter also saw visit of Mr. Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam to Ho Chi Minh City in connection with these evacuation flights. During the visit, Ambassador also called on the Party Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee on 29th June, 2020. The quarter also saw a courtesy call on Acting Consul General Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu by Binh Phuoc Provincial Authorities on 15th June, 2020.

On 17th April, 2020, Dr. Namrata Raj, Teacher of Indian Culture (TIC) in the Consulate shot a Meditation Video in context of COVID – 19 in collaboration with US Vietnam Talent International School, HCMC. A webinar on Gastritis, Health and Nutrition was also organized by the Consulate on 13th June, 2020.

In a low-key affair, Consulate also celebrated the 6th International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2020 in the Consulate Premises where the Consulate staff and yoga students joined to practice the Common Yoga Protocol under the guidance of TIC. Yoga Day was also celebrated in the Binh Duong Province.

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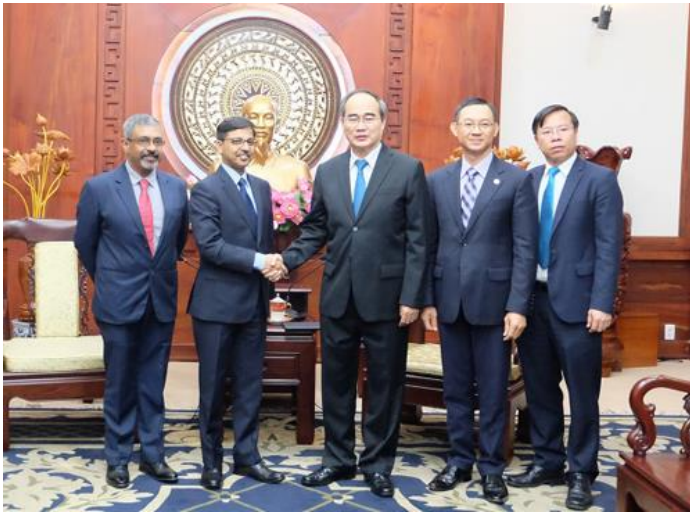
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ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF VIETNAM



Mr. Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam visited Ho Chi Minh City for the Vande Bharat Mission flights on 6 & 29 June, 2020. Ambassador met and briefed the passengers who were travelling back to India on the repatriation flights. Ambassador also paid a courtesy call on the Party Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhan on 29th June, 2020. During the courtesy call, both the sides marked the improvement of the relations between both the countries and hoped for deepening of the bilateral relations in future. Ambassador and the Party Secretary also had a very fruitful discussion on various topics of mutual interest. During the visit, Ambassador also had a meeting with INCHAM wherein he interacted with INCHAM members and spoke on enhancing economic and commercial collaboration between India and Vietnam.

ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF VIETNAM



On 15th June, 2020, representatives from Department of External Relations, Binh Phuoc Province paid a courtesy call to Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu, Acting Consul General. The courtesy call provided an opportunity to exchange idea on further elevating cooperation between India-Vietnam and the Consulate General of India in HCMC and Binh Phuoc Province in terms of socio-economic development, cultural exchange and capacity building. Provincial Authorities from DER, Binh Phuoc Province also used this opportunity to extend invitation to the Acting Consul General to visit their Province.

BILATERAL



Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu, Acting Consul General gave a TV interview on the Government of India's various measures to tackle the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. ACG Mr. Babu praised the Government of Vietnam in its measures to successfully control the pandemic and hoped that in this difficult time, both the countries could support and learn from each other. He elaborated on the financial package of US\$ 20 billion announced by the Indian Government to mitigate the difficulties faced by the lower sections of the society.



On 6 & 29 June, 2020 Government of India under its 'Vande Bharat Mission' organized two evacuation flights for Indian citizens who were stranded in Vietnam due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and were not able to travel back to India. India has, till date, repatriated around 845,000 Indian citizens from different countries.

CULTURAL OUTREACH

Consulate General of India celebrated the 6th International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2020. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event was celebrated in a much smaller scale at the Consulate premises. The event started with Lighting of Lamp. After the exchange of usual courtesies, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's video message on the International Day of Yoga was played followed by the practice of Common Yoga Protocol. The event was attended by around 40 people, including Dr. Ho Thi Trinh Anh, Vice-Chairwoman, Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA) and yoga students practicing yoga under the guidance of Dr. Namrata Raj, Teacher of Indian Culture. Apart from the Consulate, IDY was also celebrated in the Binh Duong Province where approximately 80 people attended. Mr. R.O. Sunil Babu, Acting Consul General in his remarks highlighted the importance of Yoga, especially in the current context of COVID-19 and thanked everyone for participating in the Yoga Day.



MISCELLANEOUS



On 17th April, 2020, Dr. Namrata Raj, Teacher of Indian Culture in collaboration with US Vietnam Talent International School, HCMC shot a Meditation Video in context of COVID – 19. The aim of the meditation video was to help students and parents get to know about meditation and its importance in life especially during the time of Pandemic.



Looking to the ongoing pandemic and the need for a healthy immunity system to fight off the pandemic, Consulate on 13th June, 2020 organized a webinar on Gastritis, Health and Nutrition. The speaker for the webinar was Dt. Uma Maheshwari P.S, a clinical nutritionist with 18 years experience. The webinar highlighted the causes, signs and symptoms of gastritis, its health implications and nutritional support for treatment & prevention of gastritis. The webinar was attended by over 85 participants and was very well received. The webinar also acted as a Curtian Raiser programme for the 6th International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2020.