DR. HARSH VARDHAN ELECTED AS CHAIR OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF WHO

The Minister of Health & Family Welfare of India Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been elected as Chair of the Executive Board of World Health Organization (WHO) for the year 2020-21. This took place during the 147th session of the Executive Board, in a meeting that was virtually held on May 22, 2020. He has replaced Dr. Hiroki Nakatani of Japan.

The main functions of the Board are to implement decisions & policies of the Health Assembly, and advise & facilitate its work. The Executive Board of WHO is composed of 34 technically qualified members elected for three-year term.

Dr Harsh Vardhan has also been a member of several prestigious committees of WHO like Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and the Global Technical Consultative Group (TCG) on Polio Eradication.

He has also served as an Advisor to the WHO.

CII-EXIM BANK WEBINAR ON "SOUTHERN AFRICA ECONOMIC UPDATE: COVID AND BEYOND" (MAY 5, 2020)

High Commissioner Prashant Agrawal was one of the keynote speakers during the webinar on "Southern Africa Economic Update - COVID and beyond" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and EXIM Bank on May 5, 2020.

He encouraged Indian and Namibian companies to look at health & pharmaceuticals, agriculture & irrigation, solar as well as mining sectors for collaboration to help post-COVID19 recovery.
GREETINGS FROM EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA DR. S. JAISHANKAR ON THE OCCASION OF AFRICA DAY.

External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar conveyed his greetings to Africa on the occasion of 57th Anniversary of Africa Day on May 25, 2020.

INDIA IS SUPPLYING MEDICINES TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

In response to the pandemic, India has readily come to the assistance of, inter alia, various African countries affected by COVID-19. This is in keeping with India’s traditionally strong bonds of friendship and solidarity with Africa, which has reached new heights in the last few years.

India dispatched packages of medicines to more than 25 countries in Africa. Package of medicines includes hydroxychloroquine, paracetamol and other drugs which are immediately required to fight the pandemic. These medicines are expected to complement the national efforts of the various countries in Africa to combat the pandemic.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI SPOKE WITH PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA OF SOUTH AFRICA & OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had telephonic conversation on April 17, 2020 with President Ramaphosa of South Africa, who is also the current Chairperson of the African Union. Prime Minister, in his conversation, conveyed India’s full support for the joint African effort against the virus.

PM had a telephone conversation on April 9, 2020 with H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda. PM also spoke to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed on May 6, 2020.

Earlier during the month April 2020, External Affairs Minister had also spoken to his counterparts in several African countries to reiterate India’s solidarity with African people in the fight against COVID-19 and offered them all assistance. His offer was deeply appreciated by these countries.

ONLINE TRAINING ON COVID19 FOR NAMIBIAN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Government of India, through its e-ITEC programme, is offering online training through live webinars, on COVID19 Management Strategies and related aspects for Healthcare Professionals in Namibia. The participants will get an opportunity to understand more about #COVID19 and health, clinical, behavioural, administrative & management aspects associated with it from Indian medical experts. This will also include sharing of experiences and best practices.
Namibian Healthcare professionals are encouraged to participate in these online training programmes and benefit from the Indian experience of fighting COVID-19. Three (3) Namibian healthcare professionals participated in one such course conducted by AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Interested doctors and qualified healthcare providers in Namibia may write to High Commission of India, Windhoek at hoc.windhoek@mea.gov.in & edu.windhoek@mea.gov.in together with their details.

The e-ITEC course for healthcare workers and others on "COVID-19 Pandemic: Prevention and Management Guidelines for healthcare professional" organised by the Ministry of External Affairs along with its partner AIIMS Raipur is also now been extended to all healthcare workers of Africa.

It is worth mentioning that more than 40% of all the training and capacity building slots under ITEC programme has traditionally been earmarked for African countries.

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, WINDHOEK
ONLINE YOGA SESSIONS

As the COVID19 restrictions have shifted to next stage and most people have resumed their work, the High Commission of India has been conducting two online Yoga sessions every day, from Monday to Friday on the Facebook page of High Commission of India, Windhoek: India in Namibia.

The timings are as follows: Morning: 0800 to 0900 hours, Evening: 1700 to 1800 hours. Enjoy the sessions!

DID YOU KNOW?
MAY 6-12 IS INDIA’S NATIONAL NURSE’S WEEK

National Nurses Week, and a number of specific Nurses Days during this week, provides recognition to nurses for their contributions and commitment to quality health care. It brings awareness to the importance of nurses in the care, comfort, and wellbeing of all of us, and especially our children and the aging, and those in poor health.
UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

The Federation of Indian Chambers & Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the largest and oldest apex trade body in India will be organizing India’s largest Virtual Exhibition & Conference i.e. Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene Expo 2020 from 22–26 June 2020. The Expo will bring the entire ecosystem of Healthcare under one roof to showcase their products and services and buyers from across the globe who will participate in the event. The focus sectors of the exhibition are (i) Pharmaceuticals, Pharma Machinery & Technology, (ii) Medical Devices, (iii) AYUSH & Wellness, (iv) Medical Textile and (v) Hygiene & Sanitization. The key highlights would be 5 Dedicated Exhibition Halls for each of these focus sectors, Sector-specific webinars, Pre-Fixed B2B Meetings, Free to attend Exhibition for the visitors, and innovative product display options. The participants can interact with each other from the comforts of their homes/offices.

More information on the event is available on website www.vhhe.in. Healthcare & Hygiene stakeholders in public and private sector, Trade bodies and associations in Namibia are encouraged to attend the event. For attending the event, interested participants may submit Visitor Registration Form available at website link https://vhhe.in/forms/visitor.php. For more information, Mr. Sudhanshu Gupta, Deputy Director, FICCI may be reached at Mobile No: +919873311557 and/or E-mail: sudhanshu.gupta@ficci.com; website: vhhebuyers@ficci.com.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with the support of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India is organizing a Digital Exhibition and Conference on Agriculture & Food Processing from June 23-24, 2020 on a virtual platform. This initiative aims to further deepen the existing relationship between India and Africa in the following areas: (i) Trade and investment in agriculture produce and commodities, (ii) Food processing and value addition, (iii) Farm mechanization and irrigation technology for increasing productivity and achieving climate resilience, (iv) Agricultural research & development to foster innovation, and (v) Capacity building & training. This event will involve a digital exhibition to showcase and promote mechanism to enhance farm productivity, promote trading of agricultural commodities, quality seed, fertilizer, food processing technologies, irrigation solution among others. It will also provide companies to connect via online B2B meetings to potential projects and partners on the continent. The conference will also be an opportunity for participants to hear about sector updates and opportunities, financing options, the policies and regulations regarding the agricultural and food processing sector from government officials and experts across the region through various digital panel discussions. Business leaders, Business Associations, Business Chambers in Namibia are encouraged to make use of this Digital Expo & Conference and participate. The recommended names of Government Dignitaries and Industry leaders etc. (Ministers, Senior Officials), may be sent preferably by June 20, 2020 to hoc.windhoek@mea.gov.in and comm.windhoek@mea.gov.in in order to be invited to participate at the digital conference. For more information on exhibition and conference, please write to indrayani.mulay@cii.in / devaki.k.n@cii.in.