

Statement of India at the 6th Special Session of UNESCO (Revised)

Hon'ble Chairperson,
Hon'ble Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies;

On behalf of the Government and people of India, please accept my heartfelt condolences to the Governments and the people of all UN Member States who have lost valuable lives to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I am grateful to Hon'ble Chairperson for his initiative to organise this historic Special Session of the UNESCO to reiterate global commitment and discuss steps to combat this unprecedented crisis.

Excellencies,

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has recently launched a clarion call for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' or Self Reliant India to combat the adverse effects, particularly the economic ones, of the COVID pandemic. Government of India has also announced an unprecedented economic package worth around 10% of India's GDP with substantial financial allocations to reinvigorate the education and health sectors of our country. On the education front India has launched the Prime Minister's e-VIDYA Programme to facilitate multi-modal access to digital education throughout the country. For students who do not have adequate access to digital modes, education is being reached through SWAYAM PRABHA- DTH television channels. The top hundred universities in India will soon commence online courses to counter disruptions and continue the momentum of university education. 7 universities have already started these courses.

Excellencies,

In face of the COVID 19 pandemic, top institutions in India have stepped up research into various aspects of the disease.

As part of our endeavour to continue the propagation of culture at a time when connoisseurs are unable to visit museums; Government of India has brought museums closer to the people by enabling and facilitating virtual tours.

Hon'ble Chairperson,

I would like to conclude my speech by saying that India believes in the spirit of VasudhaivaKutumbakam, or treating the whole world as a family. In this spirit we will continue our efforts for creating global solidarity to combat the impacts of the Corona virus, particularly those that hinder propagation of UNESCO's objectives.

Thank You