

सत्यमेव जयते

SANDESH

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016



SANDESH

Published by
High Commission of India, Colombo

October- December 2016 issue

The information and articles are collected from different sources and do not necessarily reflect the views of the High Commission

Suggestions regarding improvement of the "SANDESH" may please be addressed to

Information Wing

High Commission of India
No. 36 -38, Galle Road, Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94-11 2327587, +94-11 2422788-9

Fax: +94-11-2446403, +94-11 2448166

E-mail: cpiccolombo@gmail.com



Front Cover:

The High Commission of India
Shri Y. K. Sinha, unfurling the
National Flag at an the flag hoisting
ceremony on Monday, 15 August
2016 at India House in Colombo



सत्यमेव जयते

High Commission of India

No. 36 -38, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka
Tel: +94-11 2327587, +94-11 2422788-9
Fax: +94-11-2446403, +94-11 2448166
E-mail: cpiccolombo@gmail.com
website: www.hcicolombo.org
facebook: www.facebook.com/hcicolombo

Assistant High Commission of India

No. 31, Rajapihilla Mawatha, PO Box 47, Kandy,
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 81 2222652
Fax: +94 81 2232479
E-mail: ahc.kandy@mea.gov.in

Consulate General of India

No. 103, New Road, Hambantota, Sri Lanka
Tel: +94-47 2222500, +94-47 2222503
Fax: +94-47 2222501
E-mail: cg.hambantota@mea.gov.in

Consulate General of India

No. 14, Maruthady Lane, Jaffna, Sri Lanka
Tel: +94-21 2220502, +94-21 2220504,
+94-21 2220505
Fax: +94-21 2220503
E-mail: cg.jaffna@mea.gov.in

find us on
facebook

www.facebook.com/hcicolombo
www.facebook.com/indianculturalcentre

Contents

Visits

Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Mozambique 1



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to South Africa 3



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Tanzania 6



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Kenya 8



State Visit of President of Myanmar to India 10



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Vietnam 12



State Visit of the President of Egypt to India 15



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's visit to China to attend G20 Summit 16



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at the 14th ASEAN-India Summit and 11th East Asia Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR 19



State Visit of Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to India 21



Visit of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to India 22



Visit of the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister to Sri Lanka 23



Independence Day of India



70th Independence Day of India 26

India celebrates 70th Independence Day with patriotic fervor 27

H. E. President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee's speech on the eve of Independence Day 29



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's speech on Independence Day 2016 33



70th Independence Day of India Celebrations in Sri Lanka 42



High Commissioner's Message on the occasion of 70th Independence Day of India 44



70th Independence Day of India Celebrations in Sri Lanka 46



India lays foundation stone for Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium in the University of Ruhuna, Matara 48



Interaction of the Hindi delegation with H.E. Shri Y.K.Sinha — with Roshani Athukorala at High Commission of India, Colombo. 49

Launch of Emergency Ambulance Service in Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka 50



High Commissioner's speech at Dinner hosted by The Sri Lanka - India Society on August 27, 2016 at TajSamudra, Colombo to commemorate India's Independence Day 2016 51

Inauguration of English Language Lab, built with grant assistance of Government of India, in Ratnapura 54



India and Sri Lanka sign MoU to support fishing and farming communities of Hambantota district 55

India and Sri Lanka sign MoU to establish training school for Dalada Maligawa 56

Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Sri Lanka 57



Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. 57

Technology

GSLV Successfully Launches India's Weather Satellite INSAT-3DR 58



PSLV-C35 Successfully Launches Eight Satellites into Two Different Orbits in a Single Flight 60

Culture

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo EVENTS & PROGRAMMES 62





Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Mozambique

July 08, 2016

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to Mozambique on July 7, 2016. During his visit Prime Minister signed key pacts with the country after holding extensive delegation level talks with President Filipe Nyusi. Mozambique was the first stop of a four-nation Africa tour of the Prime Minister.

This was the first Prime Ministerial visit from India to Mozambique after the visit of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1982.

"President and Prime Minister Shri Modi had held detailed discussions on shared vision for a stronger partnership in years ahead. Mozambique has already been one of the gateways for Indian investments into Africa. About one fourth of all Indian investments in Africa are in Mozambique," Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said during the media briefing.

"Mozambique's strengths are also the areas of India's need. And, what Mozambique requires, is available in India. We complement each other," Shri Narendra Modi said.

From buying pulses for India to strengthening defence and security ties, we take a look at five takeaways from the Mozambique visit as highlighted in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's press statement:

President Nyusi had highlighted agricultural development as his top priority. Our experts have since held discussions on how we can work together to improve agricultural infrastructure and productivity in Mozambique. Today, we agreed to put this cooperation on the fast track.

We are also strengthening our partnership in food





security. India's commitment to buy pulses from Mozambique would help meet India's requirement. It will also facilitate long-term investments in commercial farming, generate farm employment and raise farmer's incomes in this country.

Health care is another area where India's capacities and Mozambican needs match well. India will be donating essential medicines for the Mozambican public health system, including medicines for treatment of AIDS.

We recognize that terrorism is the gravest security threat facing the world today. Mozambique and India are no exceptions. Terrorism impacts India and Mozambique equally. The networks of terror are inter-linked with other trans-national crimes. Our agreement on prevention of drug trafficking is a testimony to our shared determination to combat this menace and these networks.

India and Mozambique are connected by the Indian Ocean. It is an ocean of many economic opportunities. But, we are also aware of the emerging strategic and security challenges in the maritime domain. In his talks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said "To advance our shared security interests, President and I have today agreed to strengthen our defence and security relationship. We will work together to support the Mozambican defence forces. By building capacities and institutions, training of personnel, supply of equipment, and in responding to their other emerging needs."

During his visit in Mozambique, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with students at the Science and Technology Park at Maluana, and with members of the Indian community .





Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to South Africa

July 08, 2016

On the invitation of His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, paid an official visit to the Republic of South Africa from 7 to 9 July 2016. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his first visit to South Africa was accompanied by a delegation comprising senior government officials.

President of the Republic of South Africa H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma warmly received Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 8 July 2016 at the Union Buildings of South Africa.

In his talks with President Zuma, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conveyed good wishes and a message of friendship from the people of India to the people of South Africa. The two leaders held discussions in the spirit of the strong friendship and historical links between the two countries.

His Excellency Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

President Zuma and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid tribute to the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi whose resistance against discrimination and fight for justice inspired leaders of the struggle for freedom in South Africa. Both leaders admired the





contribution of Nelson Mandela for his leadership of the fight for justice and freedom in South Africa. The contribution of these leaders helped in building a just and free society in their respective countries.

During the visit, the following Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding were signed by the two sides:

Memorandum of Understanding on ICT

Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Grassroots Innovation in the area of Science and Technology

Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism; and Programme of Cultural Cooperation

Bilateral Relations

The discussions between President Zuma and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi were held in the spirit of friendship. Both leaders referred to the historical relations that the two countries share as well as the

mutual struggle against colonialism and oppression which has served to forge a strong bond that is further underpinned by a shared worldview.

President Zuma and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also discussed intensified collaboration in the sectors of defence, energy, agro-processing, human resource development, infrastructure development as well as science, technology and innovation.

President Zuma furthermore invited the private sector of India to invest in various sectors of South Africa's economy. Likewise, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also called upon the South African private sector to consider investing in key economic sectors in India. South Africa took note of the many opportunities for the private sector available in the "Make in India" initiative, and the Indian side noted the invitation to take advantage of infrastructure development opportunities in South Africa and the Continent.

Noting the potential for greater economic engagement between the two countries and the need to promote economic and commercial cooperation, the leaders





welcomed the decision of the Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII) to open a regional office in Johannesburg. They mandated the relevant authorities to organise country-specific events for promoting trade and economic cooperation.

Affirming the importance of cooperation in the field of training and skills development South Africa welcomed the numerous opportunities offered by India, and acknowledged the benefit that many students accrued and that it looked forward to further strengthening the academic engagements between institutions on both sides.

Both parties expressed the desire to broaden people-to-people interactions and to increase two-way tourism which would include a redoubling of efforts to address challenges with regard to Consular and Immigration related issues. South Africa welcomed the e-Tourist Visa facility extended to South Africa. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi appreciated South Africa for extending 10-year BRICS multiple entry Business Visa to business persons from BRICS countries.

At the conclusion of the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to President Zuma and the Government and people of South Africa for the warm and generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the visit and that he looked forward to receiving President Zuma in Goa, India for the BRICS Summit in October 2016.





Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Tanzania

July 10, 2016

At the invitation of H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi Prime Minister of India paid a State Visit to the United Republic of Tanzania from 9th to 10th July 2016.

During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held official talks with President Magufuli. The talks were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere reflective of the longstanding relations of brotherhood and friendship that exist between the two countries and their peoples.

The Prime Minister welcomed the resolve of the President of Tanzania for nation-building through industrialization, developing agro-based enterprises and promoting small and medium sector businesses in the country which would create opportunities for enhanced business cooperation between the two countries.

The two leaders agreed that it was imperative to broaden cooperation to include potential areas such as manufacturing, development of small scale industries for rural developmental needs, power production and distribution, gas exploration and usage, infrastructure development, agriculture especially in crops like pulses, mining and information technology. Greater cooperation in the area of scientific cooperation between the two countries was also encouraged.

Recognizing that development partnership is an important facet of bilateral relations, the Tanzanian side expressed appreciation for India's continued commitment towards supporting Tanzania's development efforts through providing technical and capacity building training and extension of developmental projects using grants and concessional credits.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi affirmed India's continued readiness to extend further support towards





development objectives of the government of Tanzania in line with its development vision in the fields of water, small scale industries, e-governance, and health care. He announced the donation of a radiation therapy machine, 'Bhabhatron II' to Bugando Medical Centre, Mwanza by India that was being installed currently and committed to further gifting of essential medicines, ambulances, and medical equipment to Tanzania.

The two leaders recognized the growth in vibrancy of people-level relations between the two countries that were encouraged by the introduction of e-Tourist Visas to Tanzania last year and the subsequent removal of visa fees for Tanzanian business travelers to India since December 2015. The two Leaders then jointly announced the holding of a Festival of Indian culture in Tanzania within a year.

The two leaders agreed to ensure that the Tanzania India Joint-Commission Meeting and Joint Trade Committee session is held within the coming year

to take advantage of the current momentum of cooperation between the two countries.

H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli applauded the successful conclusion of the last India Africa Summit held in October, 2015 that was attended by the then Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania. He noted that the many projects that had been executed so far, and those in the pipeline were a direct result of discussions held at India Africa Summits and promised to endeavor to attend the next one.

H.E. Shri Narendra Modi expressed appreciation and gratitude for the warm reception accorded to him and his delegation and applauded the fruitful talks with the President of Tanzania which have paved the way for significant expansion of bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi extended an invitation to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania to pay a reciprocal visit to India in the future and H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli accepted the invitation.





Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Kenya

July 11, 2016

At the invitation of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India paid a State Visit to Kenya from 10th to 11th July 2016. This was the first at the level of Prime Minister in 35 years.

The two Leaders hailed the warm and cordial relations between Kenya and India and agreed that the State Visit provided an excellent opportunity to reinvigorate bilateral collaboration and explore new areas with a view to intensify cooperation on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. To this end, the two Principals reiterated their commitment to the continued expansion of these excellent ties and to impart a fresh momentum for cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Guided by the necessity to establish a solid framework to facilitate engagement between the two Governments, the following bilateral instruments were

concluded during the visit:

- i. MoU on Defence Cooperation.
- ii. MoU on Cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management
- iii. Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income
- iv. MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards and Kenya Bureau of Standards
- v. Agreement on Exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic Passports
- vi. Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 15 million to IDB Capital Limited, for development of small and medium enterprises [SMEs]



- vii. Line of Credit Agreement for US\$ 29.95 million to the Government of Kenya for upgrade of Rift Valley Textiles Factory [RIVATEX]

On Development Assistance, India proposed to extend Lines of Credit (LoC) for Geothermal Projects and for agricultural mechanisation. President Uhuru Kenyatta welcomed India's offer and observed that the proposed LoCs would boost investment in these sectors. The President lauded the signing of US\$ 29.95 million LOC to upgrade of Rift Valley Textiles Factory (RIVATEX) and the US\$ 15 million LOC to IDB Capital Limited, for development of small and medium enterprises [SMEs]. He also appreciated the power transmission line projects being executed by Indian companies under a Line of Credit of US\$ 61.6 million.

Indian universities in training Kenyan graduates who are making positive contributions to the economy. He requested India to consider expanding training and capacity building programmes in areas such as medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and ICT which are relevant to Kenya's national development priorities.

The two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation to advance the sustainable development agenda at the multilateral level and to work together to strengthen the status of the United Nations Office in Nairobi and UN Habitat as preparations continue for the Habitat III Conference in October 2016.

Given the two countries shared interest in the Indian Ocean and the importance of the Blue Economy, the two leaders agreed to pursue initiatives in the



The two Leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation. They addressed a Business Forum of Kenyan and Indian businessmen and stressed on the need for the business communities from both countries to exploit existing potentials in trade and investment. The possibility of export of pulses from Kenya to India was also explored. Further, the two Principals tasked the Joint Trade Committee of the two countries to explore further ways of enhancing trade cooperation.

Kenya welcomed the Indian initiative 'African Development through Indian Technologies and Innovations' (ADITI) to explore sharing, implementing and commercializing technologies and innovations that aim to spur growth, both in Africa & India.



Given the importance of cooperation in education and in response to the offer by India to increase scholarships for Kenyans, President Uhuru Kenyatta appreciated the role of

sustainable management and extraction of ocean based resources. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance that both countries attached to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and agreed to work towards finalizing the agreement on Cooperation in the Blue Economy.

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, expressed his gratitude to President Uhuru Kenyatta and to the people of Kenya for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during his State visit. He also congratulated President Kenyatta for the success of his initiatives and achievements during the past three years under his strong and focused leadership. The Prime Minister of India extended an invitation to President Kenyatta to visit India, which he accepted.

President Kenyatta thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his delegation for visiting Kenya. He acknowledged the important role that the Prime Minister is playing both nationally and internationally. The President accepted the invitation of the Prime Minister and promised that at the appropriate time, he would visit India.



State Visit of President of Myanmar to India

August 27-30, 2016

At the invitation of H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, H.E. U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid a State visit to India from 27-30 August, 2016. He was accompanied by his wife Daw Su Su Lwin. Apart from his official engagements in New Delhi, President U Htin Kyaw visited places of historical and cultural importance, including Bodhgaya and Agra.

President U Htin Kyaw was accompanied by a high level delegation including the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, the Union Minister for Transportation and Communication, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Manpower, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and other senior officials. He was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 29, 2016. The President of India hosted a banquet in his honour.

Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India, called on President U Htin Kyaw in New Delhi.

The Indian leadership congratulated the President of Myanmar on the victory of the National League for Democracy after general elections in Myanmar in November 2015. They expressed support to the new

Government in all its endeavours for the well-being of the people of Myanmar, including in development of democratic institutions.

President U Htin Kyaw held wide-ranging discussions with H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India and H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. While reviewing bilateral issues, both sides agreed that greater bilateral cooperation between India and Myanmar is required in order to promote inclusive growth and development and to contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in both countries and in the region as a whole. They expressed support for the continuation and reinvigoration of dialogue within the framework of existing bilateral institutional mechanisms, namely Joint Consultative Commission, Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Trade Committee, National Level Meeting, Sectoral Level Meeting, Regional Border Committee, Border Liaison Meetings, Heads of Survey Department Meeting etc.

Referring to the ongoing discussions between the two sides on Maritime Security, both sides agreed that Maritime Security Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal is vital for both countries.





The two sides agreed to promote trade and expand cooperation especially in agriculture, banking, power and energy sectors. Both sides expressed satisfaction that the trade between the two countries has shown resilience to the global trends. They agreed that both Governments would work to identify and remove various impediments to bilateral trade. In this context, both sides appreciated the useful deliberations at the India-Myanmar Business Conclave held in Yangon in May 2016 which was attended by a high-level business delegation led by Indian Minister of Commerce Smt Nirmala Sitharaman. Indian side conveyed that leading Indian companies are prepared to invest in Myanmar's Hospitality and Automobile sector, and requested that this may be facilitated.

Both sides agreed that an arrangement for supply of pulses from Myanmar to India would be in the mutual interest of Myanmar farmers and Indian consumers. They encouraged Indian companies to cooperate with Myanmar farmers in order to improve the quality of pulses production and thus ensure better marketability of the produce in India.

The President of Myanmar thanked India for the power supply that commenced from India across the Moreh-Tamu border on April 8, 2016. Both sides agreed that this is a small but critical step towards further integrating our countries and economies for the mutual benefit of the two peoples. Both sides will consider

infrastructure strengthening of the transmission network to increase supply in future.

In order to provide a framework for bilateral cooperation in this key sector, the Indian and Myanmar leaders resolved that the proposed MoU between India and Myanmar on Cooperation in the field of Power should be negotiated at the earliest.

The two sides also discussed on setting up immigration facilities at the Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zowkhathar border crossing points at an early date.

During the visit, the following documents were signed:

- i) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine
- ii) The MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.
- iii) The MoU on Cooperation in the Construction/Upgradation of the Bridges and Approach Road in Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa section of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar.
- iv) The MoU on Cooperation in the Construction/Upgradation of Kalewa-Yagyi road section of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar, and

Both sides welcomed the various steps taken to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC. The Myanmar side informed the Indian side that State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will participate in the forthcoming Outreach Summit between BRICS and BIMSTEC partners to be held in India on 16 October 2016. The Indian side welcomed this.

The President of Myanmar thanked the President of India for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him and to the members of his delegation during their stay in India.

The President of Myanmar extended an invitation to the President of India and the Prime Minister of India to visit Myanmar at mutually convenient dates. The invitations were accepted, and it was agreed that dates for these visits would be decided by mutual consultations through diplomatic channels.





Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Vietnam

September 02 – 02, 2016

At the invitation of H. E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India H.E. Shri Narendra Modi paid an Official Visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 02 - 03 September 2016.

On 3 September 2016, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was accorded a ceremonial reception. This was followed by bilateral talks between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc. Thereafter, the two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of bilateral documents. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of Vietnam Communist Party, H.E. Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of Vietnam, and H.E. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Chairperson of the National Assembly of Vietnam. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid a wreath at the Memorial of National Heroes and Martyrs and Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, visited the Ho Chi Minh Residential Complex and the Quan Su Pagoda in Ha Noi.

1. Political Relations, Defense and Security:

Both sides agreed to increase the exchange of high-level and other visits, step up relations between political parties and legislative institutions of both sides, establish relations between provincial/state governments on both sides, uphold established bilateral cooperation mechanisms, and effectively implement the agreements signed between two countries.

Both sides agreed to effectively implement the Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Relations of May 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reaffirmed India's significant interest in promoting defence industry cooperation between the two sides and committed to provide a new Line of Credit for Vietnam in this area. Both sides welcomed the signing of the contract for Offshore High-speed Patrol Boats between M/s Larsen & Toubro and Vietnam Border Guards utilizing the US\$100 million Line of Credit for defence procurement extended by India to Vietnam.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced a grant of US\$ 5 million for the construction of an Army Software Park at the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang.

The Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the MOU on Cyber Security between Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and the transfer of equipment to the Indian funded Indira Gandhi High-Tech Crime Laboratory. They agreed to an early conclusion of the MOU for cooperation between the National Security Council Secretariat of India and the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam, emphasized the need to establish the Deputy Ministerial level dialogue and to enhance cooperation on traditional and non-traditional security matters, cyber security, counter-terrorism, transnational crimes, disaster management and response, and undertaking training and capacity building programmes.

2. Economic Relations, Trading and Investment:

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc welcomed Indian companies to invest in Vietnam and affirmed Vietnam's commitment to create favourable conditions and facilitation for Indian investments in accordance with Vietnamese laws. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi sought facilitation of the Government of Vietnam for major Indian investments such as Tata Power's Long Phu-II 1320MW thermal power project for achieving contractual conclusion.

3. Energy:

The Prime Ministers agreed to further enhance cooperation in the oil and gas sector and urged both sides to actively implement the Agreement signed in 2014 between PVN and OVL on cooperation in new blocks in Vietnam. The Vietnamese side also welcomed Indian oil and gas companies to avail of opportunities in participating in mid-stream and down-stream sectors in Vietnam.

4. Connectivities:

Both sides agreed to enhance banking and financial sector linkages between the two countries for facilitating more intensive economic engagement. The Vietnamese side welcomed the opening of a branch of Bank of India in Ho Chi Minh City in July 2016 and took note of the Indian side's request on licensing international foreign exchange transactions of Bank of India to assist Indian business and industry in Vietnam.

5. Science and Technology:

The Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at signing of the Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement between the two countries for Exploration of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes and urge both sides to soon conclude the Implementing Arrangement



between the Indian Space Research Organisation and Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on Establishment of Tracking and Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility in Vietnam under the India-ASEAN Space Cooperation. The Vietnamese side welcomed the establishment of the facility which would increase capabilities of Vietnam and ASEAN countries in remote sensing with numerous commercial and scientific applications.

6. Training:

Both Prime Ministers welcomed ongoing cooperation in the establishment of capacity building institutes in Vietnam in IT, English language training, entrepreneurship development, high-performance computing and other areas and expressed satisfaction at the finalization of development partnership projects including the establishment of Vietnam-India English and IT Training Centre at the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang, the Centre for Excellence in Software Development and Training at Ho Chi Minh City.

Vietnam welcomed the offer to train 15 Vietnamese diplomats at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi and 25 Vietnamese students of Vietnam National University Faculty of Oriental Studies at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

The Indian side affirmed that it would continue

to provide training through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and provide scholarships for Vietnamese students and Government officials. Vietnam welcomed India's assistance under the framework of Mekong - Ganga Cooperation, especially the Quick Impact Projects Fund (QIPF).

7. Health, Culture, Tourism and People-to-people Links:

Both sides welcomed the conclusion and signing of the MOU on health cooperation. They also emphasized the importance of encouraging traditional medicine.

Vietnam highly appreciated the support and assistance of India in organizing activities highlighting the role and contributions of President Ho Chi Minh. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked Vietnam for its leadership

in facilitating the inscription of the Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

India announced the offer of special annual scholarships for Vietnamese students for advanced Buddhist studies at Masters/Doctoral level courses and annual scholarships of one year duration for study of Sanskrit in Indian institutes for the members of the Buddhist Sangha in Vietnam.

8. Regional and International Cooperation:

The Prime Ministers valued the cooperation and coordination between both sides at regional and international fora and agreed to strengthen cooperation particularly in UN, NAM, WTO, ASEAN and related forums including ARF, ADMM Plus, EAS, ASEM and as well as other sub-regional cooperation mechanisms. India welcomed the realization of ASEAN Community and expressed full support for ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional structure. India welcomed and highlighted the significant contribution of Vietnam to the ASEAN - India Strategic Partnership in its capacity as ASEAN Coordinator for India for the period of 2015-2018.

Both Vietnam and India stressed the need for reform of the United Nations and expansion of the UN Security Council in both the permanent and the non-permanent categories of membership, with enhanced



representation from developing countries. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed gratitude for Vietnam's consistent support to India's candidature for permanent membership of a reformed and expanded UNSC. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed support for each other's candidature for non-permanent membership of the UNSC, Vietnam for the term 2020-21 and India for the term 2021-22. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of the Program of Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping Matters. The Indian side expressed its commitment to capacity building and training to enable Vietnam's participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

The following Agreements were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers:

- (i) Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes;
- (ii) Protocol for Amending the Agreement on Avoiding Double Taxation;
- (iii) Program of Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping Matters;
- (iv) Protocol between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and the Ministry of External Affairs of India on Celebrating 2017 as the "Year of Friendship";
- (v) MOU on Health Cooperation;

- (vi) MOU on Cooperation in Information Technology;
- (vii) MOU on Cooperation between the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and the Indian Council of World Affairs;
- (viii) MOU on cooperation in Cyber Security;
- (ix) MOU between the Bureau of Indian Standards and Directorate for Standard, Metrology and Quality for Cooperation in the Fields of Standardization and Conformity Assessment;
- (x) MOU on Establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Software Development and Training;
- (xi) Technical Agreement on Sharing of White Shipping Information;
- (xii) Contract for Offshore High-speed Patrol Boats;

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's interactions with the entire leadership of Vietnam were marked by warmth, friendship and mutual respect. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. He extended an invitation to Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to visit India at a mutually convenient date. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc accepted the invitation with pleasure.





State Visit of the President of Egypt to India

September 01-03, 2016

At the invitation of His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, His Excellency Mr Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt paid a State Visit to India from 01 to 03 September, 2016. President Al Sisi was accompanied by high-level delegation comprising of Ministers, Officials and business leaders.

During the visit, President of India received President Al Sisi and host a Banquet in his honour. Vice President of India, His Excellency Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari called on him. Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi held bilateral discussions with President Al Sisi and host a lunch for him. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India met President Al Sisi. President Al Sisi met business leaders of both sides during his visit.

India and Egypt enjoy excellent relations marked by strong, traditional and civilizational ties and contribute towards peace and development in the world.



二十国集团领导人杭州峰会 G20 HANGZHOU SUMMIT

中国·杭州 2016年9月4-5日

HANGZHOU, CHINA 4-5 SEPTEMBER 2016



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's visit to China to attend G20 Summit

September 03-05, 2016

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the eleventh G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China on 4-5 September, 2016.

In addition to attending different segments of the Summit and making focussed interventions, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met and held talks on key bilateral issues with the host, President Xi Jinping of China as well as Presidents of Russia, Turkey and Argentina, Prime Ministers of UK and Australia and deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi informally interacted with US President Barack Obama and French President Hollande on margins of official deliberations.

Significance

The importance of G20 has grown over recent years. It was initially established in 1999 and comprised of Finance Ministers and Heads of central banks of 20 major economies of the world who would meet annually to discuss issues of global economic governance.



This was upgraded to summit level in 2008 to deal with the international financial and economic crisis that year.

G20 represents 85 per cent of world GDP, 80 per cent of world trade and two-thirds of the world population.

It is a forum in which world's major economies, both developed and developing are represented.

With passage of time Agenda of G20 summits has continued to expand so that in addition to macro aspects of Trade, Finance and Economy, the forum also debates political and social issues including terrorism, terror financing, health, education, water, agriculture and several more.

Record of implementation of decisions taken has not been very inspiring. All work is accomplished by the country that holds the Chair for that year.

the first G20 gathering after the Brexit vote and took place just before the US presidential elections, both of which will have a significant impact on the international economy and trade in the coming years.

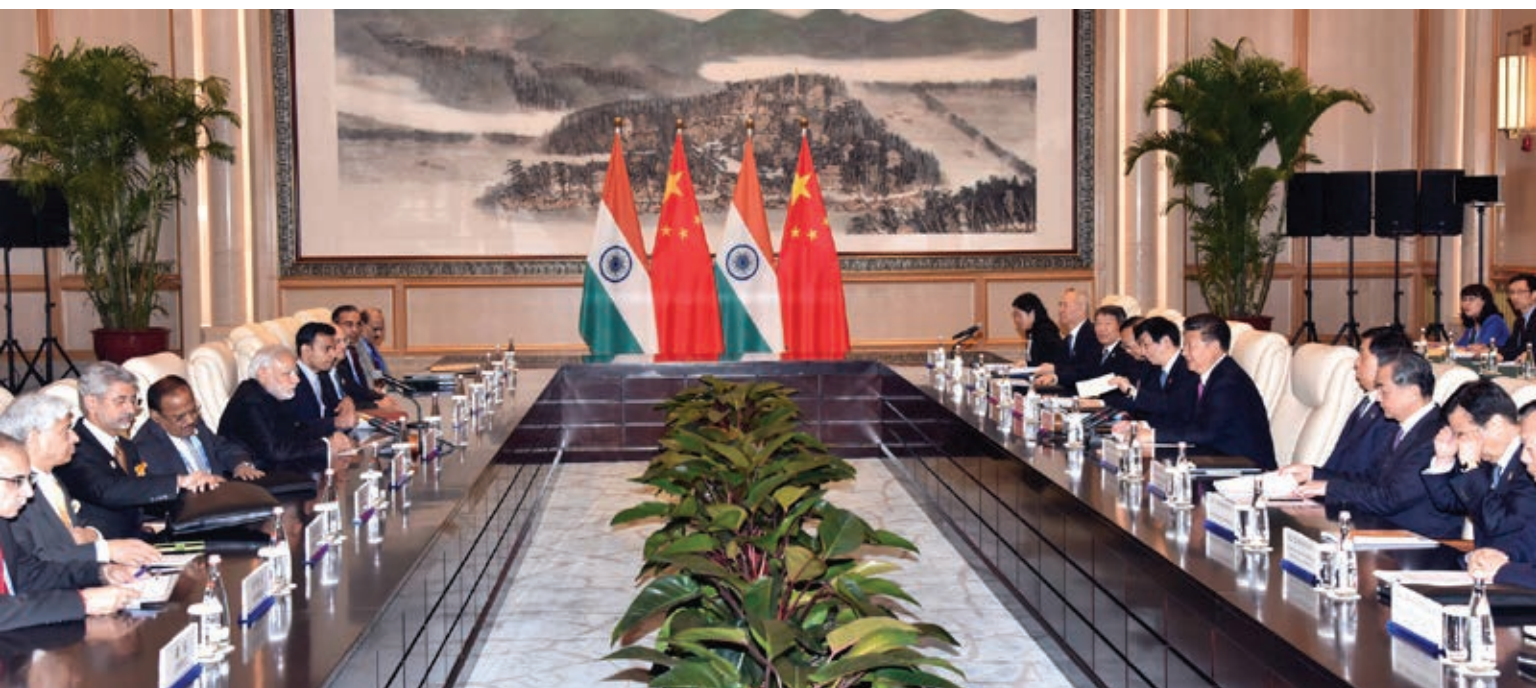
At the end of the Summit, the assembled leaders agreed to coordinate their macroeconomic policies, oppose protectionism and promote growth and demand.

However few concrete proposals emerged to meet the growing challenges to globalisation and free trade.

Discussions at the Summit were jolted by test-firing of three medium-range ballistic missiles by North Korea.

Russian and US leaders met on sidelines of the Summit to find a solution to Syria but failed to reach a deal.

Discussions are expected to continue. USA and China jointly affirmed that they will ratify the COP 21



The Hangzhou Summit was the first G20 Summit organised by China and also the first such high level Summit to take place in that country.

In logistics, facilities and arrangements, China acquitted itself creditably barring the snafu at the airport when President Obama's Air Force One was not provided a regular staircase on arrival and the heated altercation between US and Chinese officials.

Solutions

This was the last major international Summit that President Obama attended barring the East Asia Summit in Laos, Vientiane, before he demits office in January 2017.

Significance of the Summit was enhanced as it was

declaration on climate change that provided a big morale booster.

Message

In his address at the Summit, Shri Narendra Modi exhorted the G20 countries to isolate and sanction countries which sponsor terrorism and not reward them.

Without naming Pakistan he said that a single country in South Asia is spreading agents of terror in India and the region.

He referred to the urgent need to curb black money; to forsake protectionism; to promote growth and demand; to safeguard climate justice and uphold principles of equity and Common But Differentiated



Responsibility (CBDR).

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's message on terror is a clear, cautionary advice to the international community that they should not expect any elasticity from India if Pakistan continues its nefarious activities in carrying out terror attacks in India.

In his bilateral meeting with Xi also, Shri Narendra Modi had said that terrorism should not be viewed through the prism of politics as it is a scourge that afflicts the whole world.

In his bilateral conversation with President Xi, Shri Narendra Modi underlined that both India and China need to be sensitive to each other's strategic interests, concerns and aspirations to realise the full potential of their bilateral partnership.

In the first few years of its establishment, G20 discussions had produced tangible results in coordinated policymaking and follow-up action but it has since meandered and lost focus.

Its significance has however continued to grow because of the opportunity it provides to world leaders to meet bilaterally with their major partners to discuss and resolve urgent issues of concern and interest.





Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at the 14th ASEAN-India Summit and 11th East Asia Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR

September 08, 2016

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 14th ASEAN-India Summit and the 11th East Asia Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 8 September 2016, at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Lao PDR. The Summits was attended by Heads of State/Government of the 10 ASEAN and 18 East Asia Summit Participating Countries respectively. In the margins, Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with several leaders.

The India-Asean Summit was attended by the leaders of 10 Southeast Asian nations - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand.

The East Asia Summit was attended by the leaders of the 10 Asean nations and those of India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Russia.





India's engagement with the ASEAN and wider Asia-Pacific region has acquired further momentum following the enunciation of the 'Act-East Policy' by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the 12th ASEAN-India Summit and 9th East Asia Summit in Myanmar in November 2014.



At the 14th ASEAN-India Summit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and ASEAN Leaders reviewed ASEAN-India cooperation and discuss its future direction under each of the three pillars of politico-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. 2017 will mark 25 years of India's dialogue partnership with ASEAN, to celebrate which a number of commemorative activities also announced by Prime Minister.



ASEAN is a strategic partner of India since 2012. India and ASEAN have 30 dialogue mechanisms which meet regularly, including a Summit and 7 Ministerial meetings in Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Tourism, Agriculture, Environment, Renewable Energy and Telecommunications. Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) Shri V.K. Singh (Retd.) recently attended the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting and EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane on 25-26 July 2016. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman, attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers + India Consultations & EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Vientiane on 6 August 2016.

Trade between India and ASEAN stood at US\$ 65.04 billion in 2015-16 and comprises 10.12% of India's total trade with the world. The ASEAN-India economic integration process has got a fillip with the creation of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area in July 2015, following the entry into force of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements. Conclusion of a balanced Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement will further boost our trade and investment ties with the region.



The East Asia Summit is the premier leaders-led forum in the Asia-Pacific. Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia. Apart from the 10 ASEAN Member states, East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Russia.

India, being a founding member of the East Asia Summit, is committed to strengthening the East Asia Summit and making it more effective for dealing with contemporary challenges.



At the 11th East Asia Summit, Leaders discussed matters of regional and international interest and concern including maritime security, terrorism, non-proliferation, irregular migration, etc. Three statements/declarations were under discussion for adoption at the EAS, viz. the Vientiane Declaration on Promoting Infrastructure Development Cooperation in East Asia; an EAS Declaration on Strengthening Responses to Migrants in Crisis and Trafficking in Persons; and an EAS Statement on Non-Proliferation.

A Joint Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Negotiations is expected to be adopted at a separate ceremony after the EAS.



State Visit of Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to India

September 15-18, 2016

Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' & Mrs. Sita Dahal was on a State Visit to India from 15-18 September, 2016 at the invitation of Prime Minister of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi. This was Prime Minister Prachanda's first bilateral visit abroad after assuming office in August 2016. Prime Minister Prachanda was accompanied by a high level delegation.

During his visit, Prime Minister Prachanda held talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and called on Rashtrapatiji and met other Indian Ministers.

The visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal provided an opportunity for both sides to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, as well as seek ways to strengthen the age old, close and friendly ties between the two countries in diverse sectors.





Visit of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to India

September 14-15, 2016

The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani paid a working visit to India on September 14-15, 2016.

The President held discussions with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who also hosted a lunch in the honour of the visiting dignitary. Their discussions will cover a wide range of matters of mutual interest.

During the visit, President Ghani interacted with business community and deliver an address at a prominent think tank in New Delhi.

This visit provided an opportunity to continue the close and frequent consultations between the two friendly neighbours, including at the highest level. Such interaction is the hallmark of their strategic partnership and has guided the strengthening of all-round cooperation between the two countries.



Visit of the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister to Sri Lanka

September 26-27, 2016



The Commerce and Industry Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Sri Lanka from September 26-27, 2016 with the objective of enhancing and deepening bilateral trade and investment relations.

Hon'ble Minister discussed various bilateral trade and investment issues with Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka over an official dinner hosted in her honour.

During the visit, a meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Business Forum was held which was attended by the Commerce and Industry Minister and Mr. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade of Sri Lanka. Many issues relating to trade, services and investment were highlighted and it was agreed that their resolution be

explored. The Commerce and Industry Minister also suggested that the meeting of the reconstituted India-Sri Lanka CEO Forum be held at the earliest.

The Commerce and Industry Minister also had a bilateral meeting with a high level Sri Lankan delegation led by Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan delegation also included other Sri Lankan Ministers namely Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade, Mr. Ajith P. Perera, Deputy Minister for Power and Renewable Energy and Ms. Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development.



The leaders expressed satisfaction on the progress of the proposed Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement (ETCA) between India and Sri Lanka. It was noted that the Second Round of negotiations for the ETCA to take place in New Delhi. The leaders also discussed several other issues related to bilateral trade and investment.

by a spirit of mutual respect and understating that characterizes the strong and vibrant relations between the two countries.

The visit has emphasised the importance of Sri Lanka as an important trading and investment partner for India and would help in further deepening the existing bilateral relations.

The deliberations were extremely cordial and marked



70TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA



70th Independence Day of India

August 15, 2016

History and significance

The history of Indian Independence is laced with the struggle and sacrifice of many leaders and revolutionaries of the country.

The story of India's colonisation began with the arrival of the British East India Company to the country in the 1600s. The merchants who came to trade with India soon began to exercise military and administrative control and by 1757, they had huge swathes of the country under them.

Resentment against the alien company and its unfair rule over the local populace began to grow and in 1857, the first organised revolt against it took place with a group of Indian soldiers rebelling against the British rank in the Barrackpore, Bengal unit. Referred to as the Great Struggle of 1857 (the British called it the Sepoy Mutiny), this rebellion marked a new era in India's freedom movement.

As a direct result of the rebellion, administrative control of the country passed from the East India Company to the British Crown in London. From 1858 to 1947, India was governed by London with representatives in the form of governor-generals and viceroys posted in India. However, several incidents such as the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, where more than 1,000 people were killed after General Reginald Dyer ordered troops to fire machine guns into a crowd of Indian protesters and the Bengal famine of 1943, which killed up to five million people, only went to alienate the local people from their rulers.

Prominent Indian leaders and revolutionaries such as Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Lala Lajpat Rai, Chandrasekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took part in the uprising against the British over different time periods, which ultimately led to India's freedom from foreign rule.

In February 1947, the then British prime minister Clement Attlee, announced that his government would grant full self-governance to British India by June 1948 at the latest.

Nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience led by leaders like Gandhi, Patel and Nehru were largely responsible for India's independence. However, independence came with the partition of India into the dominions of India and Pakistan.

On 15 August 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, raised the Indian national flag above the Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi.

Nehru delivered his famous speech — Tryst With Destiny — in which he addressed the long-drawn struggle and future that lies ahead.

Celebrations

Although India's freedom struggle has become history today, 15 August still holds great significance in the hearts of millions of people of the country. Most Indians celebrate the national holiday with family get-togethers and by attending patriotic events.

The national flag is hoisted by the prime minister of India on the ramparts of the Red Fort, Delhi, followed by a speech. Other politicians hoist the flag in their constituencies. People fly kites to express their feeling for freedom.

A national holiday is observed throughout the country with flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural events and parades. Almost all movie channels entertain their viewers with old and new patriotic movies and classics.

"At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance"

Jawaharlal Nehru (Tryst With Destiny)





India celebrates 70th Independence Day with patriotic fervor

August 15, 2016

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on August 15, 2016 unfurled the national flag at the historic Red Fort on the occasion of 70th Independence Day amid loud cheers from the public.

Here are the sidelights of the ceremony held at the 17th century Mughal monument:

As soon as the Prime Minister's motorcade arrived at the venue at 7:23 AM, thousands of people from the general public and school children rose to get a glimpse of their leader with a thunderous applause. Shri Narendra Modi got down from his armoured car and waved at the crowd.

Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar and Minister of State for Defence Rao Subhash Ramrao Bhamre along with Defence Secretary Shri G Mohan Kumar received Shri Narendra Modi as he arrived at the Lahore Gate.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by the General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area then proceeded towards the saluting base where combined Inter-Services and Police Guards presented general salute to the Prime Minister.

He then inspected the guard of honour contingent which consisted of one officer and 24 men each from Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police. The Army contingent for the Guard is drawn from the 8th Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (Siachen).

The battalion was raised as the First Battalion Border Scouts by volunteers who took up arms in the aftermath

of partition to check the multitude of Kabailies intruding into Poonch on 18 December 1947.

The Prime Minister then walked to the ramparts of the Red Fort and unfurled the tricolour at 7:30 AM sharp.

The unfurling of the tricolour was synchronised with the 21 Gun Salute fired by the valiant gunners of the elite 2281 Field Regiment (Ceremonial). The Air Force Band played National Anthem when the National Guard presented "Rashtriya Salute".

The Army Contingent for the National Flag Guard is drawn from 11th Battalion of the Jat Regiment. This is a 52-year-old battalion with a gallant past.

The Prime Minister then addressed the nation making a 90-minute long powerful speech, shunning the bullet-resistant glass enclosure for third year in a row.

People from all walks of life had queued up to participate in the event as early as 5:00 AM. Around 10,000 seats were set aside for general public at the venue and they were filled by 7:00 AM. Security personnel had a tough time managing an enthusiastic crowd.

According to the police, about 40,000 people attended the function. There were seating arrangements for 22,000 people, including 2000 VVIPs and VIPs, 9000 for school children and 10,000 for the general public.

Throughout the speech, people kept clapping jubilantly and the public responded to every pause with a loud cheer.

Tricoloured balloons were released after the Prime Minister concluded his speech.

When Shri Narendra Modi's motorcade was leaving the venue, children waved their caps and scarves and greeted him. As last year, the Prime Minister stopped his car and went to meet the children. He shook hands with some of them and greeted them on the occasion.

Demonstrating their excitement and patriotic zeal, children sang the national anthem with a festive fervour both at the beginning and end of the event.

Seven hundred boy cadets of the National Cadet Corps drawn from various schools of Delhi Directorate comprising Army, Navy and Air Force wings participated

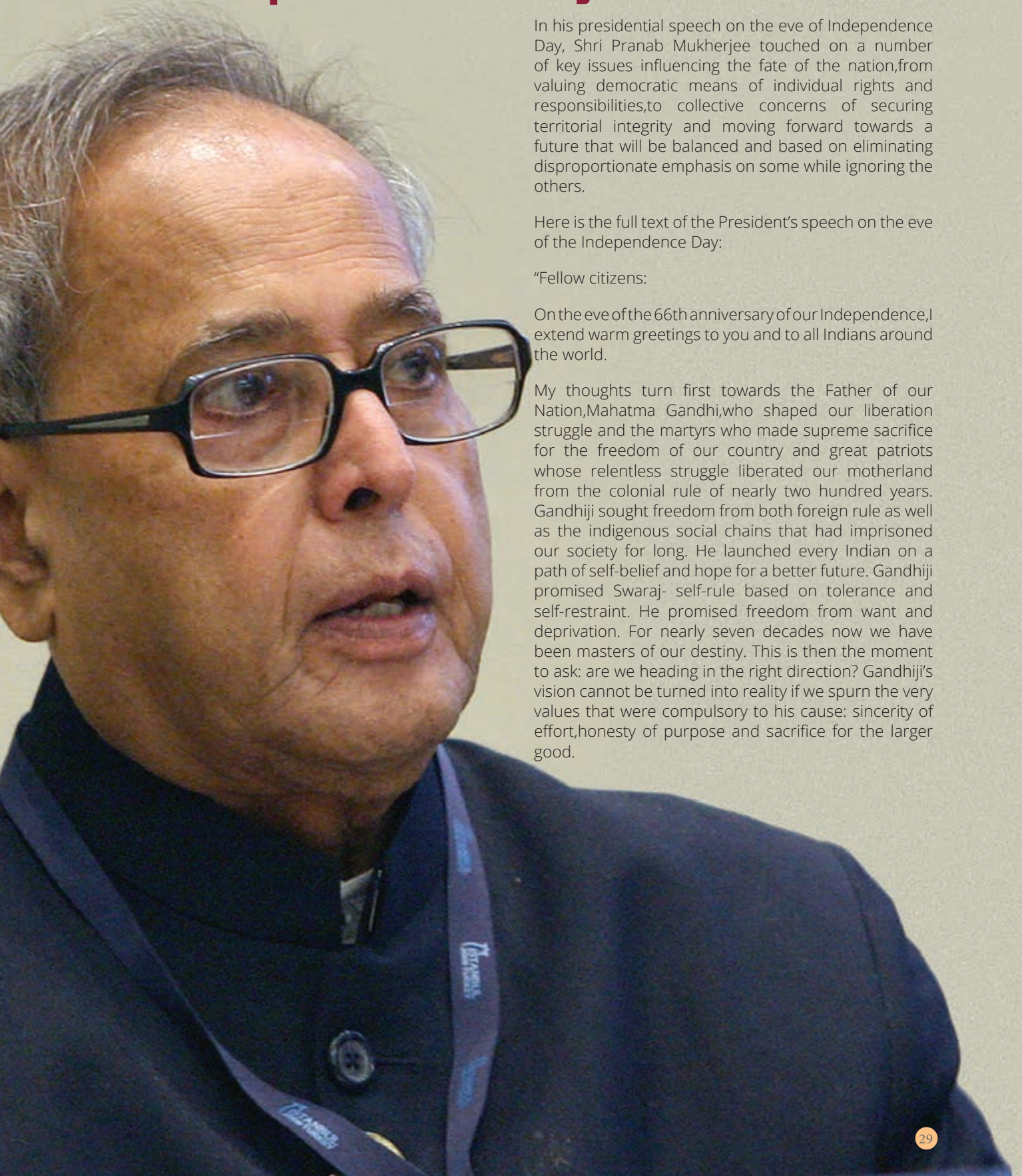
in the flag hoisting ceremony this year.

The cadets also sang patriotic songs and the national anthem along with the school children.

Former Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh along with wife Smt. Gursharan Kaur, Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Food and Public Distribution Delhi Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal, were some of the VIPs present for the event.



H. E. President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee's speech on the eve of Independence Day



In his presidential speech on the eve of Independence Day, Shri Pranab Mukherjee touched on a number of key issues influencing the fate of the nation, from valuing democratic means of individual rights and responsibilities, to collective concerns of securing territorial integrity and moving forward towards a future that will be balanced and based on eliminating disproportionate emphasis on some while ignoring the others.

Here is the full text of the President's speech on the eve of the Independence Day:

"Fellow citizens:

On the eve of the 66th anniversary of our Independence, I extend warm greetings to you and to all Indians around the world.

My thoughts turn first towards the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who shaped our liberation struggle and the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the freedom of our country and great patriots whose relentless struggle liberated our motherland from the colonial rule of nearly two hundred years. Gandhiji sought freedom from both foreign rule as well as the indigenous social chains that had imprisoned our society for long. He launched every Indian on a path of self-belief and hope for a better future. Gandhiji promised Swaraj- self-rule based on tolerance and self-restraint. He promised freedom from want and deprivation. For nearly seven decades now we have been masters of our destiny. This is then the moment to ask: are we heading in the right direction? Gandhiji's vision cannot be turned into reality if we spurn the very values that were compulsory to his cause: sincerity of effort, honesty of purpose and sacrifice for the larger good.

Our founding fathers created the first oasis in the desert of a colonized world nourished by democracy. Democracy is much more than the right to vote every five years; its essence is the aspirations of the masses; its spirit must influence the responsibilities of the leaders and duties of the citizens every day. Democracy breathes through a vibrant Parliament, an independent judiciary, a responsible media, a vigilant civil society, and a bureaucracy committed to integrity and hard work. It survives through accountability, not profligacy. And yet we have allowed unbridled personal enrichment, self-indulgence, intolerance, discourtesy in behavior and disrespect for authority to erode our work culture. The biggest impact of the decay in the moral fiber of our society is on the hopes and aspirations of the young and the poor. Mahatma Gandhi had advised us to avoid, and I quote, "politics without principles, wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, and worship without sacrifice", (unquote). We have to pay heed to his advice as we work towards building a modern democracy. The ideals of patriotism, compassion, tolerance, self-restraint, honesty, discipline and respect for women have to be converted into a living force.

Fellow citizens:

Institutions are a mirror of national character. Today we see widespread cynicism and disillusionment with the governance and functioning of institutions in our country. Our legislatures look more like combat arenas, rather than fora that legislate. Corruption has become a major challenge. The precious resources of the nation are being wasted through indolence and indifference. It is sapping the dynamism of our society. We need to correct this regression.

Our Constitution provides a delicate balance of power between various institutions of the State. This balance has to be maintained. We need a Parliament that debates, discusses and decides. We need a judiciary that gives justice without delays. We need leadership that is committed to the nation and those values that made us a great civilization. We need a state that inspires confidence among people in its ability to surmount challenges before us. We need a media and citizens who, even as they claim their rights, are equally committed to their responsibilities.

Fellow citizens:

A re-ordering of the society can be brought about through the educational system. We cannot aspire to be a world class power without a single world class university. History records that we were the cynosure of the world once. Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramashila, Valabhi, Somapura and Odantapuri comprised the ancient university system that dominated the world for eighteen hundred years beginning Sixth Century BC. They were a magnet for the finest minds and scholars in the world. We must seek to regain that space. A university is the

banyan tree whose roots lie in basic education, in a vast network of schools that build the intellectual prowess of our communities; we have to invest in every part of this knowledge tree, from seed, root and branch to the highest leaf.

Fellow Citizens:

There is a direct relationship between a successful democracy and a successful economy, for we are a people-driven nation. People serve their interests best when they participate in decision-making at the level of panchayat and other forms of local government. We have to rapidly empower the local bodies with functions, functionaries and finances to improve their performance. Faster growth has given us the resources, but larger outlays have not translated into better outcomes. Without inclusive governance, we cannot achieve inclusive growth.

For a developing country of more than 1.2 billion people, the debate between growth and redistribution is vital. While growth builds the scope for redistribution, redistribution sustains growth over time. Both are equally important. A disproportionate emphasis on any one, at the expense of the other, can have adverse consequences for the nation.

The last decade has seen India emerge as one of the fastest growing nations in the world. During this period, our economy grew annually at an average rate of 7.9 per cent. We are today self-sufficient in food grains production. We are the largest exporter of rice and second largest exporter of wheat in the world. The record production of 18.45 million tonne of pulses this year augurs well for our march towards self-sufficiency in pulses. This was unthinkable just a few years ago. This momentum has to be sustained. In a globalized world, with increasing economic complexities, we have to learn to cope better with adversities, both external and domestic.

Fellow citizens:

At the dawn of our Independence, we lit the glowing lamp of modernity and equitable economic growth. To keep this lamp aflame, our highest priority has to be the elimination of poverty. Though a declining trend in the poverty rate is clearly visible, our fight against this scourge is far from over. India has the talent, ability and the resources to overcome this challenge.

Reforms that have enabled us to come this far have to be pursued at all levels of governance. Favorable demographic changes over the next two decades can pay us handsome dividends. It requires industrial transformation and rapid creation of employment opportunities. It also requires an orderly urbanization process. Several initiatives taken by the Government in the recent past including the New Manufacturing Policy, the renewal of urban infrastructure and the ambitious skill training programme will need close monitoring in the coming years.

We have given our citizens entitlements backed by legal guarantees in terms of right to employment, education, food and information. We now have to ensure that these entitlements lead to real empowerment for the people. We need robust delivery mechanisms to make these legislations work. New benchmarks of efficient public service delivery and accountability have to be established. The Direct Benefits Transfer Scheme, launched earlier this year, will bring in greater transparency, enhance efficiency and eliminate wastage of precious resources.

Fellow citizens:

In our race for development, we must be careful not to disturb the balance between man and nature. The consequences of such imbalance can be disastrous. My heartfelt condolences to the many who lost their lives, and the innumerable who suffered in Uttarakhand; and my salutations to those brave personnel of our security and armed forces, government and NGOs who did so much to alleviate suffering. This tragedy owes as much to the avarice of human nature as to the rage of Mother Nature. This was nature's wake-up call. And it is time to wake up.

Fellow citizens:

We have seen in the recent past grave challenges to our security, internal as well as external. The barbaric face of Maoist violence in Chhattisgarh led to a loss of many innocent lives. Despite India's consistent efforts to build friendly relations with neighbours, there have been tensions on the border and repeated violations of the Ceasefire on the Line of Control, leading to tragic loss of lives. Our commitment to peace is unflinching but even our patience has limits. All steps necessary to ensure internal security and protect the territorial

integrity of the nation will be taken. I applaud the courage and heroism of our security and armed forces who maintain eternal vigilance and pay homage to those who have made the supreme sacrifice of the most precious gift of life in the service of the motherland.

There will be a general election in our country before I have the privilege of addressing you again on the eve of our next independence day. This great festival of democracy, is an opportunity for us to elect a stable government which will ensure security and economic development. Every election must become a crucial milestone in our nation's journey towards greater social harmony, peace and prosperity.

Democracy has given us an opportunity to re-create another golden age. Let us not squander this extraordinary opportunity. The journey ahead calls for wisdom, courage and determination. We must work on across-the-board revival of our values and institutions. We must realize that rights go with responsibilities. We must re-discover the virtue of self-scrutiny and self-restraint.

Let me conclude by quoting from the great classic Bhagvad Gita where the Teacher propounds his views and then says, and I quote, "yatha icchasi tatha kuru" "even as you choose, so you do. I do not wish to impose my views on you. I have presented to you what I think is right. Now it is for your conscience, for your judgment, for your mind to decide what is right." (unquote)

On your decisions rests the future of our democracy.

Jai Hind"



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's

My dear countrymen,

From the ramparts of Red Fort, I greet 125 crore fellow countrymen – within and outside India, on the auspicious occasion of Independence Day.

On this 70th festival of freedom, we have a new resolve, a new resolution, a new enthusiasm, a new vitality to take country to new and greater heights. Our freedom reminds us of the sacrifice of our freedom fighters and their devotion to the cause of freedom through struggle and sacrifice. On this occasion, we remember those young people who went willingly to gallows. We are breathing today in free India, thanks to Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Pandit Nehru and many other great leaders and people who struggled and worked consistently towards freedom of the country.

India is an ancient nation. We have a history and cultural heritage of thousands of years. From Vedas to Vivekananda, from Upanishads to satellites, from Lord Krishna to Mahatma Gandhi, and from Bhima of Mahabharata to Bhim Rao; we have had a long historic journey and heritage. This land has seen many ups and downs, and struggle through several generations. Many of them dedicated themselves to make a better human life.

India is not 70 years old, but it is a journey of 70 years post-colonial rule. After Independence, we made efforts to take the country forward under a new system. Sardar Vallabhai Patel unified the country and now it is our duty to make this country as the best nation. We have to make continuous efforts to realise our dream to make India "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

My fellow brothers and sisters, freedom has not come without a price. There were endless atrocities but the resolve was unwavering. Every Indian was a soldier of the freedom movement. Everyone wanted freedom of the country. It is possible that someone might not have been imprisoned, someone might not have been able to make sacrifice but even then, every Indian had a resolve for freedom. Mahatma Gandhi was the leader.

It was the motivation of the sacrifice of armed revolutionaries which led to Swaraj. But now, to change the self governance into good governance is the resolve of 125 crore citizens. If the Swaraj was achieved through sacrifice, attainment of Swaraj (good governance) is also not possible without sacrifice, valor, dedication and discipline. So to further the Good-Governance resolve of 125

Speech on Independence Day 2016

crore people, all have to move ahead with their respective responsibilities and dedication.

In order to attain Good Governance, everyone has to fulfill its responsibilities, be it a Panchayat or Parliament, be it a Gram Pradhan or a Prime Minister, to strengthen every democratic institution. Only then, India will not take too much time in realizing the dream of Good-Governance.

It is true that our country is confronted with a number of problems but we must not forget that if there are problems, the country also has capabilities and when we move ahead with such capabilities, the paths of solutions also become available. So, my brothers and sisters, if India have millions of problems, we have 125 crore brains also which are capable of solving the problems.

Brothers and sisters, there was a time when Governments in our country were mired in allegations, but time has changed now. Today, the Government is not surrounded by charges and allegations, but by expectations. And when there are expectations around, it is an indication that when there is hope, when there is trust, then only expectations arise from their womb, and expectations speed up the journey towards good governance, and fulfill expectations on a continuous basis. So my brothers and sisters, for us this journey of Surajya ... today when I am speaking to you from the ramparts of the Red Fort, it is but natural that there will be discussion as to what the Government is doing and what is happening in the country, what should be done for the country. I can also present a detailed account of what the Governments has done and can underline many things.

A large number of initiatives have been taken in two years' tenure, numerous actions taken, but if I start elaborating, then maybe I will have to speak from the rampart of Red Fort for one week. So instead of that, today I want to draw your attention towards the work culture of this Government, not the work only. Sometimes it is easy to account for the work but it is not easy for a layman to know, grasp, understand and identify the work culture until you go into depth.

So my brothers and sisters, today I am not talking only of the policy but also of the intent and the decisions. Brothers and sisters, it is not an issue of direction only but a matter of wider attitude.

This is not only an outline. It is a commitment for transformation. This is confluence of people's expectations, democracy and people's support. This is a desire and also consent, this is a momentum and also expression of progress.

Therefore my beloved countrymen, today when I speak of good governance, my straight forward meaning is – to make a difference in the life of the common man. Good governance means that administration should be sensitive, should be responsible and should be dedicated to the common man.

And then we need to emphasize on good governance, keep on exploring the responsibility of everyone, responsibility and accountability should be at the root of good governance and it should get sustenance from there. Therefore, administration should be sensitive.

Just remember the times, when if we had to go to any big hospital, we had to wait for many days. When people used to come to AIIMS, they had to wait for two to three days to just know when they will have to undergo the tests. Today we have been able to change the entire system. There is an online registration, online appointment of doctors, and when the patient comes



at the time given to him, his treatment starts. Not only this, his medical records are available online. And in the area of health, we want to develop this culture throughout the country. Today, the government has brought this system in more than 40 big hospitals but the bottom line is that administration should be sensitive. Brothers and sisters, the administration should be accountable. If the administration is not accountable, the problems of the common man remain unattended. How does change happen- we have technology but there was a time when rail ticketscommon man of India is linked to rail tickets, the



poor man is linked to it. Earlier, through technology, only 2000 tickets were issued in one minute. There was a time – people waited for the website to open. Today I can say with satisfaction that in one minute, 15,000 rail tickets can be issued.

The government should be accountable as to how a responsible Government should take steps on the basis of the needs and aspirations of the common man.

There is a class in the country, especially the middle class, the upper middle class, who is more troubled with income- tax officials than the police. I have to change this situation, I am trying and I will change it. But there was a time when an honest Taxpayer would pay his income-tax, even pay extra two rupees so that he does not face any problem. But, once the tax was deposited, he would face difficulties in getting refund. He even had to go to the extent of canvassing and wait endlessly for the refund. Now, we have introduced a system of online refund. Now refund is done within a time frame of 1 to 3 weeks. Those who are watching this telecast on television will also agree that their refund reached them directly, without any application for it. This became possible only due to efforts in making government accountable.

You know, for good governance, transparency is important. Our society is now gradually becoming connected with the world. Earlier, only 40-50 lakhs people used to apply for passport in a year. Now a days, 2 crore people apply for it. Earlier 4 to 6 months were wasted only in inquiries if someone had no recommendation. But now the situation has changed. I can say with pride that now citizens can get a passport in 1 to 2 weeks, without any recommendation/canvassing. It is due to transparency in governance. No delay, no need of recommendation. Today I can say that, in a short time during 2015-16 itself, we have issued 1.75 crore passports to our citizens.

Efficiency is the hallmark of Good governance. Earlier if anyone wanted to start a company or business, they had to even struggle for its registration for a minimum of at least 6 months. But this situation has now changed. Due to efficiency in governance now, the same employees under the same rule complete the process of company registration within 24 hours. In last July itself, 900 of such registrations materialised.

My fellow brothers and sisters, for good rule, good governance is necessary. We have taken many steps for good governance.

Last year, I announced that there will be no interview for group C and group D posts. They will get jobs on the basis of merit. We have identified almost 9000 such posts. Now these 9000 posts will not be put for the process of interview. Our young aspirants will not have to spend any money for appearing for interviews nor they will have to search for someone for canvassing or recommendation. Doors for corruptions and middle men have been shut and this system is now in place.

My fellow brothers and sisters, there was a time when government used to announce the scheme and spell out what will be done under the said scheme. It was the practice to keep the people satisfied. People used to hope that something will happen now. Then they started inquiring about plans. Subsequently, the people demanded to know about budget. Over the past 70 years, the mindset of country has changed. People are not satisfied with the launch of schemes, the plan details, and the budget provisions. The common man is satisfied only when something appears on the ground. We can't make things work on ground at a slow pace. We will have to accelerate our speed, move at faster pace.

Rural Roads in our country- Every person in a village expects permanent concrete road. A very big task- Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji started it with special attention. And the later Governments continued it, promoted it. We have tried to give it speed. Earlier it was 70-75 Kilometers per day of Rural Road construction. Today we have increased it to 100 Km a day. This speed will meet the expectations of common man in the coming days.

We are laying emphasis on power in our country, and in particular on the Renewable Energy. There was a time – after many years of Independence, work on Wind Energy started. In the last one year, we have increased it nearly by 40 percent. This is the meaning of speed. Solar Energy... now the entire world is paying attention to it. We have increased it by 116 percent. This is not an incremental change, it is a very big high –jump. We want to increase things as per its quantum. If there is production of energy in our country, we need transmission lines and a proper system of transmission lines. Two years before the formation of our government, 30-35 thousand kms of transmission lines were being laid every year. With satisfaction, I can say that today, we have made it up to 50,000 Kilometers. This is a task of speeding up. If we talk about Rail line commissioning, and commissioning means track ready to run trains, completion of all trials. In the previous 10 years, it was 1500 kms, and today we are able to make it up to 3500 kms in two years. We are furthering this speed.

My Brothers and sisters, today we are stressing on direct benefit by linking the Aadhar Card with the government schemes, thereby stopping the leakages. In the earlier regime, nearly 4 crore people could be added to government schemes with Aadhar Card. Today, I can say with great satisfaction that compared to the number of 4 crore, we have completed the task of linking 70 crore citizens with the Aadhar and Government schemes. Whatever is left, is also being completed.

In our country, a middle class man or woman takes prestige in having a car in their home. There was a time that a gas stove in a house was taken as a standard and a status in the society. During a span of 60 years after independence, LPG could be provided to about 14 crore people. I am satisfied that on one side there were 14 crore LPG connection in 60 years and on the

other we have given 4 crore new connections in just 60 weeks. Where does 14 crore in 60 years stand against 4 crore in 60 weeks. This is a speed with which the change in the quality of life of the common man has been brought about.

We have started the cleaning the web of laws. Burden of multiplicity of laws is creating trouble for the government, judiciary and the citizens. We have identified 1700 such laws. The Parliament has already abolished about 1175 laws and we want to abolish the remaining such laws.

It had become the nature in the country to believe that some things can be done, but other things cannot be done. It cannot be done now, and nobody is sure whether it can be done in the future. Pessimism had started to become our nature. It was important to break this tendency, give energy to administration. And when we see some success we get encouraged, our energy increases, our resolve get sharpened and the results start looking closer.

When we started Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, it seemed to be an almost impossible task. For so many years, there were banks, there was Government, bank nationalization had already happened, but the common man was not part of country's economic mainstream. By linking 21 crore families, 21 crore citizens with Jan Dhan Yojana, a seemingly impossible task has been done. This is not a matter of credit for the government- it has been done by 125 crore of countrymen and therefore I salute my countrymen.

Honouring the women in the villages of India is another aspect of this initiative. Open defecation should be stopped – there should be toilets in villages. When I had the privilege to meet you from the ramparts of Red Fort the first time, I had expressed my feelings about how this can happen in our country. Today I can tell you that within this short period, more than 2 crore toilets have been built. More than 70 thousand villages have been freed from open defecation. We are working to make changes in the normal life of the people.

Last year from the ramparts of Red Fort, I had said that within next thousand days, we will bring electricity to those 18,000 villages where even after 70 years of independence there was no electricity. They were compelled to live in the 18th century. We resolved to convert the impossible to possible. With great happiness, I can say that not even the half of the 1000 days have past, we are far away from the half way mark, and yet 10,000 villages out of 18,000 have received electricity. And I have been told that out of these, there are many villages where people will be sitting before the TV for the first time today to see the festival of independence of India. I send my special greetings to those villages from here.

Brothers and sisters, you will be surprised, that at a distance

of 3 hours travel from Delhi there is a village in Hathras called Nagla-Fatela. It takes 3 hours to reach Nangla-Fatela. But it took 70 years for electricity to reach there.

And therefore, I am bringing to your notice the work being done by us, the work culture being adopted by us. My fellow brothers and sisters, those working on the LED technology research invented a bulb for the benefit of common man. LED bulb was expensive and used to sell at rupees 350 per bulb. Who would buy these costly bulbs? Government thought over it. If LED bulb can change lives in India, change environment in India, improve the economy, then it was necessary to make some efforts towards this direction. In government system of functioning, there are things when government should not interfere, but it does. And where intervention is required, it doesn't. We are trying to change this work culture and due to the Government intervention, the LED bulb, which was selling for Rupees 350, is now being distributed for Rupees 50. You can see the difference now. I want to ask where this all money was going. We have so far distributed 13 crore LED bulbs. Our politics has become populist and populism has become hallmark of economic policies. If we had given rupees 300 per bulb to people, I would have earned praise that he is a good Prime Minister who has filled people's pocket with Rupees 300.

Buy by distributing LED bulb at Rupees 50, we have helped people save thousands in the long run. 13 crore LED bulbs have so far been distributed. We have resolved to distribute 77 crore bulbs. And today I want to appeal to fellow countrymen please use LED bulb. You will save money annually and Save energy and save climate of the country. When we have 77 crore LED bulbs, India will save electricity worth 20000 MW. When we save 20000 MW electricity, the country will save 1.25 lakh crore rupees. My fellow brothers and sisters, if you use one LED bulb in your home, country can save 1.25 lakh crore rupees. By saving 20000 MW electricity, we can fight against global warming. We can contribute immensely to save our environment with the help of common man and that is why we have taken steps in that direction.

You know how to convert impossible into the possible. For energy and petroleum products, we are dependent on other nations. For a long time, we signed agreements so that we get things at fixed price for a longer duration. We have gas agreement with Qatar till 2024. However the gas price was such that it is proving costly for the Indian economy. Our good relations with Qatar made renegotiations possible on the said agreement. Today I can say with satisfaction that renegotiations made the impossible become possible and we could save 20000 crore rupees for the exchequer of India. Qatar was entitled to get this 20000 crore rupees but due to our good relations and character of foreign policy, we could achieve this.





Chabahar port is an essential link between India and Central Asia. Previous governments continuously talked and made efforts to implement this project. Today, this impossible task has been made possible, to my satisfaction. Iran, Afghanistan and India are jointly working to construct the Chabahar port to make this impossible task possible.

My fellow brothers and sisters, one thing that I would like to say now is connected with common man- it is price rise. It is true that during the rule of previous government, the Inflation rate crossed 10 percent mark. With our continued efforts, we have not allowed Inflation Rate to go beyond 6 percent. Not only it, currently we have come with an agreement with the Reserve Bank that it should take steps to control the inflation to 4 percent plus-minus 2 percent. Amidst the talks of the balance between Inflation and Growth, the Reserve Bank should also work further for moving ahead. There were two years drought in the country. The price of vegetables are affected instantly by the drought, shortage has its effect. Due to it, there were some problems. The two years drought also became a cause of concern due to decline in the pulses production. But brothers and sisters, had the price rise increased in the same way as it was heading earlier, I don't know what could have happened to the poor man of my country. We have tried our best to contain it. Still this government is followed with expectations My countryman's expectations are natural and I will leave no stone unturned in trying to achieve the goal. I will do my best efforts and will not let the food plate of poor person get costlier.

My dear brothers and sisters, the country is preparing for the 350th Anniversary of Guru Govind Singh Ji. How this country can forget the Saga of sacrifice, a tradition of Sikh Gurus and that too when it is celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Guru Govind Singh Ji. Guru Govind Singh Ji said one thing very aptly. He used to say how can I consider a hand sacred if that has not served ever, not ever done any work, the hand which has not become strong by toiling hard and there are no knots upon it. This was the saying of Guru Govind Singh Ji. Today, when we are celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Guru Govind Singh Ji, then I remember my farmer, who is the person who has more pious hands than of a farmer. Who could have a more pious heart than that of a farmer? Without it, what purpose can be more sacred than it. I salute my farmer brothers who have despite two years of drought made relentless efforts to fill the grain stores of this country.

Drought situation has changed. This time, there is a good rainfall at many places. There were troubles also at some places due to excessive rain. Government of India is with those states and citizens who are in trouble. But I want to especially facilitate our farmers for increasing the sowing of pulses by one and

half times at a time when the country is facing problem due to availability of pulses. The farmers had earlier shifted to other crops at a time when the demand for pulses from the common man had increased. We have fixed the MSP for pulses. We have announced bonus for pulses. We have put in place a better system for procurement of pulses. And therefore, we are encouraging farmers to grow pulses for getting big profit.

When I had spoken about work culture, it is clear that we do not see things in compartments. We see things in a unified, integrated manner. Take the example of agriculture, where we have developed a work culture in a way that the entire chain can give big results.

Initially we paid attention to the health of mother earth, health of the soil. We brought Soil Health Card, macro-nutrition, micro-nutrition and explained to the farmers the shortcomings and strengths of their farm lands and told them which crops can and which cannot be sown in their fields. Slowly the farmers started to plan according to the soil health cards and many told me that their expenses have come down by almost 25% and the production has increased by 30%. This is a small amount but with the spread of this information, things will move ahead. The farmers have land, if they get water they can create miracles. This is the strength the farmers of this country have and therefore we have stressed on water management, irrigation and water conservation. How to use each and every drop of water, how to increase utilization of water, per drop-more crop, Micro-irrigation- we are emphasizing on it. More than 90 irrigation schemes were lying incomplete. We have resolved to first complete these projects and lakhs of people will benefit. To reduce the input cost of the farmers, we have taken a big step towards solar pumps. Farmers need electricity, for water also they need electricity and electricity is costly. Because of solar pumps, input cost of farmers will be reduced, recurring expenses will reduce. He will now own not only his farmland but also have free electricity through solar power. My farmer will be self reliant and happy. So far, we have been successful in distributing 77 thousand solar pumps.

I want to congratulate my scientists also. Along with farmland, water and solar pumps, we need good seeds also. Our scientists have developed more than 131 new variety of seeds suitable to India's environment. These will increase per hectare yield. The quality is also increasing. I congratulate these scientists.

Farmers need Urea, fertilizers. There was a time when there was black marketing of fertilizers. One had to face police lathicharge to get fertilizers. There was a time when people had to see their harvest getting ruined due to lack of fertilizers. Now, shortage of fertilizers has become an issue of past. We have succeeded in increasing the production of fertilizers. Because of this



production, the possibility of farmers getting fertilizers in time has increased.

Similarly, we have announced the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana – to protect the land owned by the farmer upto the produce of the farm. My fellow brothers and sisters, we have provided the maximum guarantee to the farmers at the lowest premium. We have built additional godowns to protect the 15 lakh tonnes produce.

Our farmers would be benefited when we do value addition and in this direction, the government is stressing on food processing and 100 per cent foreign direct investment is being encouraged. This will benefit the agro- based industry and help fulfil my dream of doubling the farmers' income by 2022.

My fellow brothers and sisters, it has become a tradition in our country that successive governments have taken recourse to populist announcements and measures, emptied the state coffers to polish their image. I have tried to do away with this practise and emphasized on total transformation, transformation with transparency. Reform, perform, transform is the mantra which has been applied in all fields of work and range.

My fellow brothers and sisters, my government is only emphasizing the need to build an image of the country and not of any party. Only when the country's image is carved out, it will benefit the future generations. This is why, we have stressed on creating an image of the country and not that of the government.

You would have also noticed the wide ranging work done by us in all fields. In the railways, at one level, we are talking about installing the Bio-toilets in trains and on the other hand, we also dream of running the Bullet train in the country. At one level, we are talking about the soil health card and on the other hand, we are taking strides in satellite and space technology. We not only talk about Stand-Up India but also taking steps to implement Start-Up India. We stress upon substance over symbolism. We stress upon integrated development rather than the isolated development. We stress empowerment and not entitlement.

My fellow brothers and sisters, the government is identified by the new policies announced towards this end. The government ensures continuity and if the earlier government has announced a scheme which has drawbacks, then the new government should rectify the same and take it further without being egoist as arrogance has no place in democracy. In this context, our government in all humility, has given importance to the schemes and policies of the previous governments and carried them forward as part of our work culture to develop the country and improve economy towards all round development.

I personally monitor the programmes through 'Pragati' and review them. You would be surprised to know that 118 projects announced by governments costing over 7.5 lakhs crore rupees are pending at various stages of implementation. I have revived such projects and directed that they should be completed and now the government is doing so.

We made a project monitoring group to which I specifically instructed to find out what were the projects that were started in the past- Some 20 years ago, some 25 years ago, some 30 years ago, 15 years ago, those which were stranded. People who are living in those areas are aware of it. We identified such 270 projects, estimated at nearly 10 Lakh crore rupees for which foundation stones were laid by any government, 1000-2000 crore rupees may have been invested in some of them but it was going waste. My brothers and sisters, hindering of plans, delays in projects and wastage of money is a criminal negligence. We have again tried to make these projects workable and viable. Brothers and sisters, clearance to Railway projects used to take 2 years. Any rail line is going and we have to make overhead bridge, there were good roads constructed on both sides but the clearance was taking more than two years. Brothers and sisters, today we are doing that in three-four months, maximum six months to give the project clearance, that speed we have attained.

Brothers and sisters, whatever work we do, whatever we may plan, but we have to think on one aspect that the government is for good governance, for the delivery to the last man, how a person standing at the end of line is getting benefitted. Brothers and sisters, it is only when there is clear policy, clear intent, clean intent, then only you get the spirit for taking the decision and only then there could be decisions without any restrictions.

Only due to clear policies and clear intent and clear decisions, our government is moving ahead and stressing upon delivery to the last man.

We have seen, if you go through Uttar Pradesh Newspapers every year, sugarcane farmers' due was a topic of discussion every time. The sugar mills do not do this, the state government does not do this, it is the farmers' problem. The due was of thousands of crores, thousands of crores. We made plan for it, followed it. The target was that money should reach the last man delivery farmer. Whatever was the old due of thousands of crores, my brothers and sisters, I say with satisfaction that 99.5% old dues have been cleared. It has happened after many years for the first time. This time whatever amount of sugarcane came in the market and purchased, I can say with satisfaction that so far, 95% of the farmers have been paid for their crop and the rest 5% if remaining will be paid in the days to come.

Brothers and sisters, we have taken the task of providing LPG connections to poor families. Under the Ujjawala Scheme, we have vigorously launched a campaign of making my mothers free from the smoke of kitchen. Five crore poor family will get gas stoves in three years and work is going on this project. We have reached the figure of nearly 50 Lakh families and that too in just 100 days. You can assume, that it may be possible that we could complete this work well before three years. We want to stress upon the last man delivery.

Due to information technology, whatsapp, messages, online, e-mail, our post-offices were becoming irrelevant slowly. Post Office is an example of our identity. We have revived and rejuvenated our post offices. It is now linked with poor and small persons. If any government representative gets the affection of a common man in India, it is the postman. Everyone loves postman and postman also loves everybody, but we never paid attention towards them. We have taken a step to convert our post offices into payment banks. Starting of this payment bank will spread the chain of banks in the villages across the country in one go. The benefit of JAN-DHAN Account will also be available and now the MNREGA money through Aadhar Card is also getting transferred in the account of a common man leading to reduction in corruption.

Brothers and Sisters, in our country, the PSUs are formed to fall in a pit, to fail, to get locked or to be sold out. That has been the history. We have tried to bring in a new culture. And today for the first time, I can say with satisfaction that Air India which had a bad image, has succeeded in registering an operational profit last year. At a time when telecom companies all over the world were earning, BSNL was falling in a pit. For the first time, BSNL has succeeded in earning operational profit. Nobody knew whether Shipping Corporation of India would ever be in profit. Today Shipping Corporation of India is making profit. There was a time when nobody knew that a powerhouse will be operational next week or not, coal will reach there or not. A number of powerhouses were being shut down due to shortage of coal used to be the news. Today, coal is available at the door step of powerhouses. They have stock available for as many months as required. Brothers and sisters, we have done this. You have seen this.

At times, there are discussions about big corruption in our country. I have seen the common man at the lowest level suffers most due to corruption and it leads to wastage of money. We have linked Aadhaar Card and Aadhaar number with Government schemes. Brothers and Sisters, there was a time when we saw whether it was the widow pension, scholarship, schemes for divyangs, or for minorities, money used to go from Government coffers and beneficiaries' list also used to come. But when we enquired in depth, we found there were persons in the list which were not even born. They were getting benefits of the schemes. Middle men used to siphon out millions of rupees and nobody could notice that. We drove out such middle men from the system. We transferred the money directly to the beneficiaries. We noticed that there were millions of people who never got the money. Millions of rupees used to be transferred. Now it has stopped, money has been saved, but we have said that those needy who have been left out, should be identified and the saved money should go to their accounts, to those who want to fight for their rights. We have worked in the direction of 'last man delivery', and we have achieved this.



Everyone knows of the power of transparency, and corruption in coal sector. There are no allegations today in the auction of coal. In the days to come, as more coal will be mined by the States, more income will come.

There was a time when there were allegations regarding auction of spectrum. We auctioned online and today the coffers of our country are getting filled. It led to a healthy competition and country benefitted from this.

Brothers and Sisters, today the world is moving in an era of global economy. Every nation is inter-connected and inter-dependent. The entire world is connected through economic issues in some way or the other. However, much we progress, we have to keep in mind the global economy, and global arena and we have to successfully meet the global standards and match them. Then we will be relevant, then we will be able to contribute and a time will come when we will be able to lead the global economy. Therefore, we will have to be ready at all times and align ourselves with global standards. You would have seen that in recent time, World Bank, IMF, World Economic Forum, Credit Rating Agencies and all such agencies of the world have praised India's progress. Successive decisions of India in the field of legal reforms, systematic reforms and change in approach are being watched by the world. In ease of doing business, we have improved our ranking very fast. India has become the most favoured nation for Foreign Direct Investment. In Growth rate and GDP, we have left behind the big economies of the world.

My fellow brothers and sisters, a United Nations organization has just given a forecast about India's future in next 2 years. According to its assessment, India, which is currently 10th in global economy will reach the 3rd position within next 2 years. My fellow brothers and sisters, global standards take into account logistical support and infrastructure while rating a country. They also compare country's performance with developed and prosperous countries. The World Economic Forum has analyzed logistical support and infrastructure in context of India and said that India is progressing rapidly and moved up 19 steps in the rating index.

My fellow brothers and sisters, in global context, Indian economy is dynamic and moving forward on predictable lines. Approval of GST law by parliament has further strengthened our economy and all political parties are worthy of praise for making it possible.

My fellow brothers and sisters, from the ramparts of the Red Fort only, I talked about "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao". We don't work in piecemeal basis. We have an integrated approach towards implementation of our policies. I need co-operation from society to make "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" a success. Each and every parent must remain alert on this front we must respect our daughters, provide them security and ensure that they get benefits of government policies. We have brought together crores of families with Sukanaya Samridhi Yojna. The scheme takes care of our daughters when they achieve adulthood. We have ensured that our insurance policies give maximum benefit to women. The Indradhanush vaccination program empowers our mothers and sisters, both on economic and health fronts. If we empower women on these two fronts and also educate them, then it will be real empowerment of women. If woman is educated, healthy and economically independent then she shall be capable of fighting poverty. That is why we are working towards women empowerment on health and economic prosperity. We have introduced Mudra Yojana and I am happy to know that more than 3.5 crore families have taken benefit of this scheme. Most of the people were the first timers to reach the doors of the bank and out of them 80% belong to SC/ST and OBC. Under Mudra Yojana, 80% loans were taken by women and how these women will contribute in economic development, this would be worth paying attention.

Brothers and sisters, last week we decided that our mothers and sisters who are now partners in the development journey, need leave after delivery. Earlier, they were getting maternity leave for lesser number of days. Now, we have enhanced it to 26 weeks so that a mother could take better care of her child.

The weavers, persons working in textiles who make thread and bunch of threads, were earlier getting 100 rupees. We have enhanced this amount to 190 rupees so that, my mothers-sisters who are weaving thread, will be empowered. Those mothers and sisters and weavers who are doing silk work, for them we have increased the price of their produce by 50 rupees/meter and have decided that this amount will not go to the businessman or the broker. Instead this will go in the account of that weaver who has worked upon that silk, the fifty rupee per meter will be credited in her account through Aadhar, making my weaver empowered. We have started this scheme in that direction and its impact is visible.

My dear countrymen, when we see train, post office, we also see the unity of India there. More and more efforts we make to unite India and bring change in our system, it strengthens the unity and integrity of our country. For this, we have launched a scheme Mandi e-NAM for the farmers. Today, a farmer can sell his produce in any of the market online across the country. Today, he is not compelled to sell his produce in a market 10 kms away from his fields, at cheaper rates without any income for his hard labour. Now, in the country, through e-NAM, a Network of its own kind, Mandi Network is getting established.

Taxation through GST is also bound to bring equality and a common system that will also unite the country.

You will be surprised that earlier there was plenty of electricity without any taker and scarcity of electricity was forcing people to live in dark, factories were closing. To bring in the change in electricity supply, we have started One Nation- One Grid- One Price system with success and that too in a very short time.

Earlier, one had to pay ten rupees per unit electricity in summer season. Now, when I visited Telangana, the price of electricity on that day was one rupee ten paise/unit which used to be ten rupee. This one price results in joining the country.

The worker in our country works at a place and changes his job after one-two years. His money is deducted in EPF but it was non-transferrable. You will be surprised that when I took charge of this government, 27 thousands crore rupees of my workers was stacked in the EPF, without any taker because there was no system for it.

We gave a Universal Account Number to our workers for solving this problem. Now, wherever he goes, his EPF fund will also be transferred. Whenever, a labourer retires, he will get his money and it will not remain stacked in any government coffer. We have done this.

Be it Bharatmala or Setu Bharatam or Bharat Net, we have strengthened such initiatives. The initiatives should be in the direction of uniting India, economic development of India and we are working in this direction.

Brothers and sisters, this year is important in many ways. The country is celebrating the 1000th Anniversary of Shriman Ramanujacharya Ji, the saint from South India, the country is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Guru Shrimad Rajchandra Ji and the country is also celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Sh. Guru Govind Singh Ji. The nation is observing the centenary year of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay. Today, when I am remembering Ramanujacharya Ji then I want to say one thing. Thousands of years ago, and now today, when we see social tension then Ramanujacharya ji, the saint, what message he gave to the country. Ramanujacharya Ji, used to say that all the devotees of God, should serve without having a thought of discrimination and feeling of low and high. Respect everybody and don't humiliate anyone due to age or caste. What Gandhiji said, what Ambedkarji said what Ramanujacharyaji said what Bhagwan Buddha said, what our scriptures and our Acharya's, teachers, saints said, is of social unity. If society breaks, a country disintegrates, get divided in lows and highs, divided by untouchability, then my brothers and sisters, that society cannot sustain. They are evils, centuries' old evils but more old evils call for rigorous treatment with enhanced sensitivity. It happens, it can go on- the problem cannot be solved by taking this line. This is the responsibility of 125 crores countrymen, the government and the society. All will have to join hands to come out of the situation of confrontation.

Brothers and Sisters, we have to fight against the social evils. We have to rise above social evils. Every citizen will have to rise and only then we will be able to make strong India. We cannot make a strong India without making a strong society. Only economic progress cannot guarantee a strong India- strong society is a guarantee for a strong India and a strong society is made by ensuring social justice. Strong society is built on the foundation of social justice and therefore it is our responsibility that we give emphasis on social justice. Be it Dalit, victim, exploited, deprived, tribal, villager or city dweller, educated, literate, small or big – all 125 crore countrymen are our family. And all of us will have to get together to take our country forward and we have to work in that direction only.

Brothers and Sisters, today the attention of the world goes towards the fact that India is a young nation. A country which

has 800 million people less than 35 years of age, which is 65% of population – what can that country not do with its youth power. And therefore, Brothers and Sisters, the youth should get opportunities, youth should get employment, this is the demand of our times.

Today, when we are moving towards the birth centenary of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, we remember his idea about welfare of the last man. This was the idea of Mahatma Gandhi also. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay adopted the idea of 'Antyodaya'. The welfare of the last man was the central point of the political philosophy of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. Under this he used to say every youth should get education, every youth should have skills and every youth should have opportunity to give shape to his dreams. To fulfil the dreams of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, we have taken a number of initiatives to meet the aspirations of 800 million youths of our country. In the way that new roads are being built, the country is making more vehicles, more software is being exported, more than 50 new mobile making factories have been set up, all this provides opportunity to the youth. If we have made 2 crore toilets, somebody must have got employment. Cement and iron would have come from somewhere and wood work would have been done somewhere. As the scale of work increases, job opportunities will increase and we have worked in this direction only.

In order to provide skills to crores of youth of this country, we have put Skill Development in Mission mode. We have amended the law. Though a visibly small step, but will give benefit to small shopkeepers. Model Shops and Establishment Act has been approved and now we have issued advisory to states to give an opportunity to small shopkeepers so that their shops are open till midnight 365 days on the same lines as big shopping malls. Why should a small shopkeepers close his shop after evening? We should provide for that small and poor shopkeepers open their shops till midnight all 365 days. Why we should we not provide opportunity to our sisters to work at night? We have made legal provisions so that our sisters can work during the night. We must ensure their safety and security but provide them an opportunity to work. These are the measures which will generate employment and we are working towards this direction.

My fellow brothers and sisters, we don't believe and my government doesn't believe in avoiding the problems. We don't delay but confront the challenges. For doing something, problem should be faced head on. When we are celebrating Independence Day, our soldiers are on the borders to face the bullets. Some are sitting in bunkers, some don't meet their sisters even on Raksha Bandhan because they are at the borders. Lot of soldiers are working in defence forces. Our 33000 policemen have sacrificed their lives post-Independence. Shall we forget them? How can we forget them as these are the people because of whom we are leading a peaceful life. That is why we must salute them on this occasion. One-Rank One-Pension was pending for a long time. We took up this challenge and resolved this issue. Every Indian soldier felt happy after the One-Rank One-Pension was resolved and announced.

Our people desired that we must make public the files related to Netaji Subhas Babu. With all humility, I want to say that my government took up this issue which was being ignored and avoided for a long time. We disclosed the contents of these files. Netaji Subhas's family was invited and files were made

public and the process is still continuing. I have also urged other countries to make public the files related to Netaji. India has a right to know about Subhas Babu and the country's history. We have worked in that direction.

Since the days of partition, there were border disputes with Bangladesh. These disputes remained unresolved for many decades. Now, with the help and cooperation of all political parties, we have resolved the border dispute with Bangladesh. The constitutional gave us the strength.

My fellow brothers and sisters, middle class persons dream of constructing a house, buy a flat. Builders show nicely printed booklet to buyers to lure them. The middle class do not have technical knowledge but keep giving builders money and yet the builders don't build the houses on time. Middle class invests their life long savings and capital in this one time investment. To protect the interests of buyers, we brought forward Real Estate Bill to regulate the builders. This measure will help the middle class home buyers.

My fellow brothers and sisters, as I mentioned earlier, Shrimad Rajchandraji's 150th anniversary is now on. Mahatma Gandhi used to treat Shrimad Rajchandraji as his guru. When he was in South Africa, Gandhiji was in touch with Rajchandraji through correspondence. In one of the letters, Shrimad Rajchandraji discussed violence and non-violence with Gandhiji. Rajchandraji said that due to the existence of violence, the concept of Non-violence came into existence. The important thing is to understand, which principle is important for you or which can be utilized for welfare of mankind.

Dear brothers and sisters, in our country the discussion on violence and non-violence is very natural. Humanism is ingrained in our veins. We are the people of a great cultural heritage. This country is full of diversity. This bouquet of Mother India is blessed with different fragrances, different colours, and different dreams. Brothers and Sisters, unity in diversity is our greatest strength. The mantra of unity is linked to our roots. Brothers and Sisters, in a country where there are more than 100 languages, hundreds of dialects, countless ways of dressing, countless life styles, despite that this country has remained one for centuries and the main reason for this is our cultural legacy. We know how to respect others, how to become a good host and how to take all on the path of progress. We have always followed this great tradition and therefore there is no place for violence and oppression in our country. If we have to strengthen India's Democracy and to fulfill its dreams, the path of violence can never succeed.

Today in the name of Maoism in the jungles, in the name of extremism in the border areas, in the name of terrorism on the mountains, innocent people are being killed. Mother India



was continuously soaked in blood, but those following the path of terrorism achieved nothing. I want to tell these youths that this country will never tolerate terrorism and will never bow to terrorism or Maoism. I want to appeal to these youths that there is still time, shun the path of violence and try to fulfill the dream of your parents. Join the mainstream and lead a life of comfort and happiness, as the path of violence has never helped anyone.

Brothers and Sisters, when we talk about foreign policy, I don't want to present before you a detailed account. The day this Government took the oath of office, we had invited SAARC leaders. Our message was clear that all our neighboring countries have a common problem and that common challenge is poverty. So all we should come together to fight poverty. By fighting with each other, we all had suffered but if we all are determined to fight poverty, we will be able to come out of the sufferings and march towards prosperity. Therefore, I invite all the neighboring countries to join their efforts to fight poverty. There cannot be greater freedom than to free the people of India from poverty and to free the people of all countries from poverty. India will feel happy when the citizens of the neighboring countries come out of poverty.

Dear brothers and sisters, I want to present before the world two pictures (examples) that show the difference between those



people who were brought up under the influence of humanism and those who reward terrorism. I want to tell the world and those who believe in humanity by narrating the two incidents that please weigh the incident at Peshawar, where the terrorists had gunned down innocent school children. The incident happened at Peshawar, it was a terror attack. Innocent boys and girls were killed, the temple of learning was soaked in blood by killing innocent children. There were tears in the eyes of Parliamentarians. Indian schools children were crying. Every child in India

felt the shock of the death of children of Peshwar. They could not stop crying. The children of Peshwar who were killed by terrorists gave us immense pain and agony. This is our culture, borne out of humanism. On the other hand, terrorism is being glorified. When innocent people are killed in terrorist attacks, there are celebrations. What kind of life is this which is inspired by terrorism? How governments are formed through inspiration of terrorism. The world will understand this difference clearly. That is enough for me.

Today from the ramparts of Red Fort, I want to greet and express my thanks to some people. In the last few days, people of Balochistan, Gilgit, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir have thanked me, have expressed gratitude, and expressed good wishes for me. The people who are living far away, whom I have never seen,

never met – such people have expressed appreciation for Prime Minister of India, for 125 crore countrymen. This is an honour for our countrymen.

Brothers and Sisters, today when we are celebrating 70 years of Independence, we remember the contribution of our freedom fighters. Today, for the respected family members of these freedom fighters, the Government has decided to increase the pension by 20%. So the freedom fighter who used to get Rs. 25,000 earlier will get Rs. 30,000 now. This is a small offering from my side to the sacrifices made by these freedom fighters.

Brothers and Sisters, when we talk about the history of our freedom struggle, a lot is spoken about a few people. In fact, in some cases, it is more than necessary. But in our freedom struggle, the contribution of our tribals living in the forests was incomparable. They lived in jungles. We may have heard about Birsa Munda but there is hardly any tribal district which did not make sacrifices since 1857 till we got freedom. What is freedom? What is struggle against slavery? They have taught us with their sacrifices. But our coming generations are not fully aware of this history. The Government desires and is planning permanent museums in the States where these tribals lived, struggled against the Britishers and refused to be bowed down. The Government will work to make such museums in different states so that the coming generations may know how our tribals were far ahead in making sacrifices.

Brothers and sisters, in issues relating to price rise, some things are much talked about but our experience is that even if a person in a poor household gets sick, his entire economy is shattered. Even the marriage of daughter gets stalled, the education of children suffers. Sometimes, no food can be arranged. The health care services are getting costlier and hence today from the rampart of Red Fort, our government is announcing an important step for the health care of such families which are below the poverty line. We have brought a scheme that in future, for such poor families the government of India will incur an expenditure of upto 1 Lakh rupee so that my poor brothers are not deprived of health services and their dreams are not shattered.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, let's move ahead with a new resolve, new energy, new vigor and new hope on the occasion of this pious occasion of Independence Day. Let us be inspired by the persons who sacrificed their lives for the country, live for our country, work for the country, fulfill our responsibilities and inspire others to fulfill their responsibilities. We should move ahead for the realization of one society, one dream, one resolve, one direction for achieving our goals. With this thought, once again I pay homage to the great persons, the soldiers who put in their lives in danger to protect us, remember the sacrifice of 33,000 persons, and dream of the future of the country and dedicating myself today, I call upon all of you from the ramparts of Red fort to say Bharat Mata Ki Jai.....

This sound must reach every corner of the world

Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Bharat Ki jai

Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram

Jai Hind, Jai Hind, Jai Hind,

Many Many thanks

70 th Independence Day of India Celebrations in Sri Lanka

August 15, 2016



The High Commission of India and the Indian expatriate community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 70th Independence Day of India on Monday, 15 August 2016 at India House in Colombo. At an impressive flag hoisting ceremony, the High Commissioner, Mr. Y. K. Sinha, unfurled the National Flag and inspected a Guard of Honour presented by the BSF contingent. He read out excerpts from the Address to the Nation on the eve of Independence Day by the President of India, Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

The High Commissioner noted that the President of India had highlighted the strong edifice of democracy built by Indian founding fathers on the four pillars of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity that has withstood several threats from both within and without and had grown from strength to strength. Hon'ble President reiterated that there will be no stepping back on our "neighbourhood first policy". Close bonds of history, culture, civilization and geography provide the people of South Asia with an extraordinary opportunity to carve out a common destiny and to march together towards prosperity. India's focus in foreign policy will remain on peaceful co-existence and harnessing technology and resources for its economic development. Recent initiatives have enhanced energy security, promoted food security, and created international partnerships to take Indian flagship development programmes

forward.

The High Commissioner said that while India may be a modern Nation State yet it is not a new country; it is an ancient land. India is known since millennia not just as a geographical entity but as 'Bharatvarsh'. India has existed since the times of Vedas and Upanishads denoting oneness and unity. The great Greek traveler, Megasthenes, had visited the court of Emperor Chandragupta Maurya in 4th Century BCE and had penned a work titled "Indica" extolling the glory of India. High Commissioner further said that the concept of India is well understood in Sri Lanka, as both countries share civilizational bonds. In fact, Arahat Mahinda had come to Sri Lanka from Jambudvipa, which is India. These common links form the strong underpinnings of modern bilateral relations, which have significantly expanded and progressively evolved to cover all areas of mutual and contemporary relevance.

High Commissioner noted that the past year has been particularly transformative and has witnessed many dynamic developments in the strong, friendly and time-tested bilateral relations. In May 2016, H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, visited New Delhi, Ujjain and Sanchi. On June 18, 2016, President Sirisena, and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through video conferencing from New Delhi, jointly inaugurated the

newly renovated Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna, and celebrated the International Day of Yoga 2016. Both leaders also dedicated the Stadium, renovated by India, to the people of Sri Lanka.

High Commissioner noted that economic ties are at the core of India's renewed engagement with the world. With a strong demographic dividend, a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem and a large domestic market, the time is right for India's economy to soar. As the Indian nation moves forward, it invites its neighbours to be part of a collective growth story, especially its close neighbor Sri Lanka. India hopes that Sri Lankan businesses will take advantage of their proximity to India. High Commissioner said that in consonance with the vision of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, India looks forward to taking its economic engagement with Sri Lanka to the next level by elevating our FTA to include areas such as investment, services and technology cooperation. He also stated that the motivated and mischievous campaign of disinformation against this agreement needs to be countered by genuine debate and discussion among stakeholders in Sri Lanka.

On development cooperation with Sri Lanka, High Commissioner highlighted that India has committed over US\$ 2.6 billion in development assistance to Sri Lanka, with over US\$ 435 million in outright grants. The flagship housing project being funded by India is progressing at an impressive speed with over 45,000 houses constructed till date. The third phase, to construct 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces through an innovative community-driven approach, was launched in the last week of April 2016. High Commissioner also referred to the innovative Emergency Ambulance Service, funded by Government of India, which was flagged off by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe last month. Being launched, in the first instance, in Southern and Western provinces of Sri Lanka, under an Indian grant assistance of US\$ 7.55 million, this service is being provided to patients free of charge.

High Commissioner referred to the International Buddhist Conference in October 2016 being hosted by Government of India at the holy sites of Sarnath and Bodhi Gaya, which will highlight the deep and abiding

cultural and spiritual ties that bind people in both countries. High Commissioner also spoke about the close people-to-people contact between India and Sri Lanka, which is epitomized by huge tourist exchanges. Connectivity between both countries is already exceptional and discussions are under way to develop Palaly airport as a regional hub.

High Commissioner, in conclusion stated that, for years India has been facing the scourge of terrorism. The threat has only grown dramatically in the recent past. He reiterated that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism. The perpetrators of terrorist attacks, as well as the States that support and sponsor or provide safe havens to terrorists or terrorist groups, must be held accountable. He expressed his satisfaction that Sri Lanka fully subscribed to this view.

High Commissioner's speech was followed by a brief cultural programme. Thereafter, High Commissioner, in the presence of other officials of the High Commission laid a wreath to honour the memory of fallen soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in a solemn ceremony at the IPKF memorial in Colombo.

As part of the series of events organized on the occasion of the Independence Day of India, a Kathak recital titled, "Sahanaratna" was held on 13 August 2016 by ICCR sponsored artistes, Ms. Pragati Sood Anand and her ensemble. Hon'ble Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Prominent guests included Hon'ble Justice Madan Bhimrao Lokur, Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble Austin Fernando, Governor of Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Other invitees included senior officials from Government Ministries, a cross section of businessmen, cultural and media personalities, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Indian community and students. The performance was extremely well received.

Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota and the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy also celebrated the 70th Independence Day by organizing flag hoisting ceremonies.



High Commissioner's Message on the occasion of 70th Independence Day of India



On the occasion of the 70th Independence Day of India, I extend my greetings and best wishes to my fellow citizens and to the friendly people and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Anchored in the bedrock of shared civilizational links that span over two millennia, relations between India and Sri Lanka have significantly expanded and progressively evolved to cover all areas of mutual and contemporary relevance. Last year has been particularly transformative and has witnessed many dynamic developments in our strong, friendly and time-tested relations. Four high level bilateral visits within 90 days of the formation of a new government in Sri Lanka last year heralded a new beginning. The momentum generated by these visits has continued this year. Our Foreign Secretary visited in January 2016. Our External Affairs Minister, Smt. SushmaSwaraj, visited Sri Lanka for the Joint Commission Meeting in February 2016, held after a gap of three years. In May 2016, H.E. MaithripalaSirisena, President of Sri Lanka, visited New Delhi, Ujjain and Sanchi. On June 18, 2016, President Sirisena, and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through video conferencing from New Delhi, jointly inaugurated the newly renovated Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna, and celebrated the International Day of Yoga 2016. Both leaders also dedicated the Stadium, renovated by India, to the people of Sri Lanka. The highlight of the event was performance of 'Surya Namaskar', as part of International Day of Yoga celebrations, by almost 11000 school children.

Economic ties are at the core of India's renewed engagement with the world. Under Prime Minister Shri NarendraModi, there has been an intense focus on investments and growth, which is already paying dividends. With Foreign Direct Investment of US\$ 40 billion from April 2015 March 2016, India has emerged as a magnet for global investments, and this trend is

accelerating. Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities, Skill India, Housing for All and Start Up India are some of Government's top priority initiatives. They collectively envision India as an efficient economy focused on industry, innovation and entrepreneurship; the promotion of investor confidence; job creation; the development of infrastructure; and achieving total digital connectivity.

With a strong demographic dividend, a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem and a large domestic market, the time is right for India's economy to soar. If the economic liberalization of 1991 was a watershed moment for India, 25 years later India again stands on the threshold of another historic moment. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund both project a robust 7.5% growth for the country in 2016 and 2017. Latest estimates are that India's economic growth may cross the 8 percent-mark during the current fiscal year ending March 2017.

As the Indian nation moves forward, we invite our neighbours to be part of a collective growth story. I would like to underscore that the India-Sri Lanka relationship is special to us. We hope that Sri Lankan businesses will take advantage of their proximity to India. I am happy that bilateral trade has remained buoyant, with two way trade at US\$ 4.6 billion during 2015, of which Indian exports were around US\$ 4 billion and Sri Lankan exports were around US\$ 645 million. India is also among the top investors in Sri Lanka with cumulative investments of over US\$ 1 billion since 2003. From the Sri Lankan side, many companies have made large investments in India and are doing extremely well.

The corner stone of our trade relations has been the India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), which has now been in force for more than 15 years. Contrary to the misinformation currently prevailing, total bilateral trade has increased more than 8 times

under this agreement. This is a big achievement. Sri Lankan exports have used the FTA to enter Indian markets and nearly 60% of Sri Lankan exports take advantage of the FTA concessions. On the other hand, around 90% of Indian exports to Sri Lanka do not use the FTA concessions. Thus, it is obvious who has benefitted more from the FTA.

In consonance with the vision of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, India looks forward to taking its economic engagement with Sri Lanka to the next level by elevating our FTA to include areas such as investment, services and technology cooperation. During his visit to India in September 2015, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe proposed concluding an Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA). We have welcomed this offer. The first round of negotiations was held just last week, where both sides discussed at length the broad contours of the agreement.

I am aware that some in Sri Lanka have raised concerns about signing an ETCA with India, and I do reiterate that it is upto Sri Lankans themselves to decide on the contours of any agreement that they sign with a foreign country. However, the motivated and mischievous campaign of disinformation against this agreement needs to be countered by genuine debate and discussion among stakeholders in Sri Lanka.

Let me move on to another important facet of our close friendship, that of development partnership. India has committed over US\$ 2.6 billion in development assistance to Sri Lanka, with over US\$ 435 million in outright grants. Indian projects cover areas like housing, de-mining, agriculture, education, health, livelihood support, fisheries, industry, handicrafts, culture, sports and connectivity. Our flagship housing project, which aims to construct 50,000 houses, is proceeding well with over 45,000 houses constructed till date. The third phase, to construct 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces through an innovative community-driven approach, was launched in the last week of April 2016. Last month, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe flagged off the Emergency Ambulance Service, funded by Government of India, for the Southern and Western provinces of Sri Lanka, under a grant of US\$ 7.55 million. This service is being provided to patients free of charge.

Our cultures have been interwoven in a unique tapestry since time immemorial. On a personal note, I would like to mention that I was deeply honoured and humbled to be invited by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited for the Annual Mihintale Aloka Pooja on Poson Poya Day on June 19. Poson Poya is a glorious day in Sri Lanka's history. It is also a seminal event in the annals of India-Sri Lanka relations, as it is on this auspicious day that Arahata Mahinda arrived in Sri Lanka from India with the universal and sublime message of Dhamma.

The High Commission of India was happy to host in June

2016, an Incredible India roadshow, which highlighted the multiple and lesser known Buddhist sites in India. During the Joint Working Group on Tourism, held the same day, both Governments agreed on collaborative measures for the joint development of Ramayana Trail and the Buddhist Circuit, and for jointly marketing these destinations in third countries.

I am also happy to announce that the Government of India will be hosting an International Buddhist Conference in October 2016 at the holy sites of Sarnath and Bodh Gaya, which will highlight the deep and abiding cultural and spiritual ties that bind people in both countries.

People-to-people contacts remain an important pillar of our relationship. Tourist exchanges are just one manifestation of this. Taking cognizance of this, issuance of Indian visas to Sri Lankan nationals was simplified in 2015. Special measures are being taken to increase connectivity between the two nations. There are now 154 flights a week between Colombo and eight destinations in India, and India continues to be the largest source for tourists visiting Sri Lanka, accounting for almost one-fifth of all tourist arrivals. Discussions are also underway for upgrading the Palaly airport under an Indian Line of Credit, so that it can function as an international airport serving the region.

Of all the threats that are global in nature and should concern us all, terrorism is clearly the most serious. It is one that impacts lives of innocent people across the world. The heinous attacks in Turkey, Bangladesh and France in the last few months are stark reminders that we must show our solidarity and increase our cooperation on this issue. For years India has been facing the scourge of terrorism, being exported from across its border. The threat has only grown dramatically in the recent past. It is our firm conviction that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism. The perpetrators of terrorist attacks, as well as the States that support and sponsor or provide safe havens to terrorists or terrorist groups, must be held accountable. I am happy that the Government of Sri Lanka fully shares this perspective.

India and Sri Lanka are closest neighbours in every sense, with interlinked destinies. Let me reiterate that India has an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka, and we value our close defence and security cooperation. India will continue to remain engaged with Sri Lanka and offer our support in a spirit of partnership and cooperation. I have no doubt that our bilateral partnership will continue to scale even greater heights.

Long Live India-Sri Lanka friendship!

70th Independence Day of India

High Commission of India, Colombo



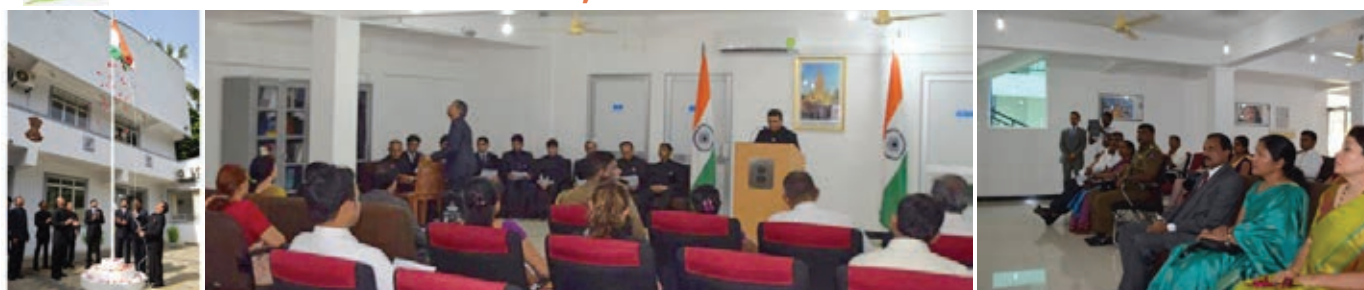
Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy



Consulate General of India, Jaffna



Consulate General of India, Hambantota



India Celebrations in Sri Lanka



India lays foundation stone for Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium in the University of Ruhuna, Matara

July 21, 2016

Shri Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India laid the foundation stone for the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium in the University of Ruhuna, Matara on July 21, 2016. Snr. Prof. Gamini Senanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna; Mrs. E. A. C. Vidanagamachchi, District Secretary, Matara; Mr. Raj Kumar, Consul General of India in Hambantota; and University staff were also present during the ceremony.

As part of its development partnership with Sri Lanka in the field of higher education, the Government of India is undertaking a project to set up the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium in the University of Ruhuna, Matara at a cost of SLR 265 million.

The auditorium will have well equipped theatre facilities with 1500 seating capacity, constructed in an area of about 3000 sqm. The auditorium will reflect the close cultural links that bind India and Sri Lanka as well as cater to the needs of the students of the University of Ruhuna and the people of the Southern Province. It can also be a venue for hosting international conventions, conferences and symposiums as well as training programmes.

The construction work is expected to be completed in September 2017. The project is being implemented in close consultation with the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka.



Interaction of the Hindi delegation with H.E. Shri.Y.K.Sinha – with Roshani Athukorala at High Commission of India, Colombo.

July 25, 2016

Interaction of delegates from India Dr. Kamal Kishore Goenka - Vice Chairperson of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Prof. Nanda Kishore Pandey - Director KHS, Agra, Shri Sanja VEDI, Programme Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Mrs. Rajashree Behera- Director Indian Cultural Centre, Hindi teachers of ICC and the selected students for KHS Agra Scholarship scheme for the year 2016-17 with His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India at the High Commission of India on 25th July 2016.



Launch of Emergency Ambulance Service in Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka

July 28, 2016

1. During his visit to Sri Lanka in March 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi had received a request for assistance for setting of an emergency ambulance service in Sri Lanka. After the visit, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Ranil Wickremesinghe, wrote to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for support for setting up of an emergency ambulance service and its operations for the first year. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, taking personal interest in the matter, assured full support. The commitment of Government of India was formalized through a Letter of Exchange ceremony that took place in September 2015 during the visit of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to India. The project would cover the Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka.

2. The project was launched at a widely attended event on July 28, 2016 at the iconic Galle Face Green in Colombo. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a video message on the occasion in the presence of, among others, Prime Minister, Hon'ble Ranil Wickremesinghe, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Rajitha Senarathne, High Commissioner of India, H.E. Y.K. Sinha and Deputy Foreign Minister, Hon'ble Harsha de Silva.

3. The project is being implemented through grant assistance of Government of India of around US\$ 7.55 million. Project elements include an emergency response centre, deployment of 88 ambulances in the Southern and Western Provinces and recruitment and training of nearly 600 Sri Lankan personnel to implement the project. Only 4-6 staff members are to be deployed from India to provide management and technical expertise guidance. Government of Sri Lanka has selected M/s GVK EMRI as the implementing agency. A 'not for profit company', called GVK EMRI Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd., has been created for rolling out the services in the Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka. All assets, including ambulances, will belong to Ministry Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka. The emergency ambulance services would be provided free of cost to the beneficiary.

4. This project is another milestone in the wide raging development partnership between India and Sri Lanka. India's development portfolio in Sri Lanka is nearly US\$ 2.6 billion, out of which US\$ 436 million is pure grants.

5. The text of the message of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the occasion of the launch of the emergency ambulance service.



High Commissioner's speech at Dinner hosted by The Sri Lanka - India Society on August 27, 2016 at TajSamudra, Colombo to commemorate India's Independence Day 2016

August 27, 2016



Hon'ble Karujayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament and Chief Guest of today's function; Mr. T.S. Prakash, President, Sri Lanka-India Society; Past Presidents and Vice Patrons of the Sri Lanka-India Society; Office bearers and Members of the Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka-India Society; Members of what is the oldest friendship society of Sri Lanka; Distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen

My wife and I are very happy to participate in the Indian Independence Day celebration organized by the Sri Lanka-India Society. This is an annual event that I have had the privilege of participating in for the fourth and perhaps the last time as High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka. I would like to commend the Sri Lanka-India Society for organizing such events regularly to remind the people of both countries of the close umbilical cords that bind us.

2. I am delighted that Hon'ble Karujayasuriya, Speaker of Parliament, is the Chief Guest tonight. He has a vast knowledge about India, and is a great friend of our country. I look forward to listening to him tonight.

3. But before that, I would like to seek your indulgence about what I am going to say, as it may sound esoteric and could tax your patience. Recently there has been a malicious and motivated attempt to ridicule and denigrate the very idea of India. There was also a preposterous claim made that ArahataMahinda came from Jambudvipawhich is not India! Hence, I can think of no other suitable occasion to dwell at some length on a subject that is close to my heart and indeed to those of 1.25 billion people that reside across the Palk Strait in a land called India that is 'Bharat'. This great land has been called by various names since antiquity. The name India may have been derived from the river Indus or Sindhu, and may have been a Greek distortion of the original Sanskrit word, but that does not detract from the concept of India or 'Bharatvarsh', that has

existed since time immemorial. While a modern nation state, based on Westphalian precepts, may have been superimposed on this great land, to claim that India is an invention of British colonialists is absurd.

Geographically, India as an intelligible entity

4. It is evident that India has a geographical unity. The bulwark of mountains from Baluchistan to the Patkoi chain and the Arakan mountains or Arakan Yoma of the eastern frontier clearly wall off the subcontinent from the rest of Asia. At the base of these mountains are the alluvial plains - the Indus delta, the Gangetic plains and delta, and the Brahmaputra basin. Beyond this is an old inner plateau with thin coastlines on both sides. It is this girdle of mountains and seas which gives India a geographical identity. Climatically, the mountains have ensured that the subcontinent has a practically self-contained monsoon system of its own. While the subcontinent has great diversity of geology, altitudes and rainfall, but this cannot take away from the unity. O.H.K. Spate, the great geographer of the Indian subcontinent, remarked that "India remains valid as a geographical expression for the lands between Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin) and the towering peak K2...".

Unity as seen through religious texts and practices

5. The unity of India is also evident in our religious texts. For instance, Vishnu Purana of 4th century mentions that descendants of the sage Bharata lived between the Himalayas and the sea, and defines the physical boundaries and features of Bharatavarsha. It also lists rivers and their sources, such as Satadru (Sutlej), Chandrabhaga (Chenab), Godavari, Narmada, Krishnaveni (Krishna), Bimarathi (Bhima), etc., which help us understand the geography of Bharatavarsha.

6. Cave inscriptions from the 2nd century refer to the existence of a larger land, by using names like 'Uttarapatha' for northern India and 'Dakshinapatha' for the Deccan. The so-called northern and southern parts undoubtedly presume a larger whole.

7. Interestingly, in his 1913 seminal book 'The Fundamental Unity of India', noted Indian historian Radha Kumud Mookerji states that "Bharatavarsha is not a mere geographical expression like the term India, having only a physical reference. It has a deep, historical significance symbolizing a fundamental unity which was certainly perceived and understood by those who invented the name.... Bharatavarsha is derived from Bharata as Rome is derived from Romulus. Bharata is a great hero of Indian history and tradition, just as Romulus is of Roman. The Rig Veda mentions him as the leader of a powerful Aryan tribe that played its full part in the struggles and conflicts by which Aryan polity and culture were being shaped into proper form in the dawn of history... Bharatavarsha is therefore another name for Aryanised India, the congenial fertile soil where Aryan culture planted itself and attained fruition."

8. The concept of the distribution of the fifty one Shaktapithas all across the subcontinent is another manifestation of India's unity. This unity is also seen in the Siva Purana, where there is a mention of the Sapta Ganga or Seven Gangas – Ganga, Godavari, Kaveri, Tamraparni, Sindhu, Sarayu and Reva [interestingly, all major rivers in Sri Lanka are also called Gangas].

Ideas about India in Antiquity

9. Historically, there has always been this sense that this sub-continental entity has a character beyond geography. Different parts of India are already known within the Vedic corpus. In later Vedic texts - like the Atharvaveda, the Yajur Samhitas, Brahmanas and Upanisad, there is a wide range of geographical data which reveals knowledge of large parts of India. We find mention of places like Kamboja and Gandhara in the northwest, Kuru Panchala, Anga, Madra, Vanga, Magadha, Kalinga in the north and east, and Vidarbha and Andhra beyond the Vindhyas.

Ashoka's Jambudvīpa

10. However, the idea that large parts made up a political realm is seen for the first time in the edicts of Emperor Ashoka, when he used the term Jambudvīpa/dīpa. Later, Jambudvīpa is sometimes used for an island, and at other times for the territory extending from the Himalayas in the north to the sea in the south. But in Ashoka's epigraphs, Jambudvīpa meant the vast land that the emperor ruled. These also provided a sense of the territorial length and breadth of the empire, and the borders beyond. For example, wherever his major rock edicts, were put up, the names of polities that existed on the borderlands were recited to people there along with the message of the edicts. Thus, for instance, those at Erragudi in modern day Andhra

Pradesh were likely to have known about the political entities beyond their borders in the south, such as the Cholas and the Keralaputras, but through the edicts they also came to know about rulers far away to the north and northwest. This would have made people there feel that they belonged to an empire spread across an enormous territory, and is clearly an attempt by Ashoka to speak in one voice across India, from Pakistan to Andhra and from Orissa to Gujarat. Thus, Ashoka's edicts clearly refer to the idea of India as a political state that straddles the subcontinent. We should also note the persistent reference in ancient political texts to the domain of a universal emperor.

Arthashastra

11. The rulership of the earth contemplated in the Arthashastras is understood as not the conquest of the whole world but for the operations of the vijigishu or would be conqueror it is the region lying between the Himalayas and the sea. Roughly translated, it reads: Place means earth. In that, the region of the sovereign ruler extends northwards between the Himavata and the sea, one thousand yojanas in extent across. There are various types of land: forest land, village land, mountainous land, marshy land, dry land, level land and uneven land. In them, he should start work that would augment his own strength.

12. It is, thus, a total sub-continental land mass that constitutes this ideal domain. So, the ideal of political unity was present.

Idea of India in the medieval period

13. If the Arthashastra and Ashoka articulate an idea of India in ancient times, there are three other that do so in the medieval period.

Alberuni

14. In his 11th century Kitab-ul Hind, Alberuni talks about India's inhabitants having institutions and features different from where he was from. He gives a fairly comprehensive account of the people of Hind, their religion, sciences, philosophy, etc. He also talks about Indians' sense of themselves.

Amir Khusrau

15. Amir Khusrau in 1318 speaks of India (Hind) as containing people who speak different languages which include Telegu (Telangi) and Kannada (Dhaur-Samanduri), and he terms these languages as 'Hindwi' (or Indian) languages. He also mentions Sanskrit and Persian too, as languages of India, drawing a picture of Indian people with their various languages constituting a single whole. Khusrau lauds their 'love of country', and speaks of the 'superiority of its products and fruits, its animals, the beauty of its women, the learning and piety of the Brahmans, and India's numerous cultural achievements such as the invention of numerals and chess...'. He also saw India as open, innovative and

tolerant.

Abu-I Fazl

16. In the 1595 Ain-i Akbari, Abu-I Fazl gives an account of religious schools, learning, arts, and myths of India, clearly highlighting the conception of India and its distinct composite culture, product of many streams. Akbar's reign also saw the writing of the first full-scale history of India, the Tabaqat-I Akbari by Nizamuddin Ahmad in 1592, which was followed by others. The accuracy of these works is not important. Instead they clearly demonstrate that our land had its own history - that idea of India is important.

Ideas of India in Modern Times

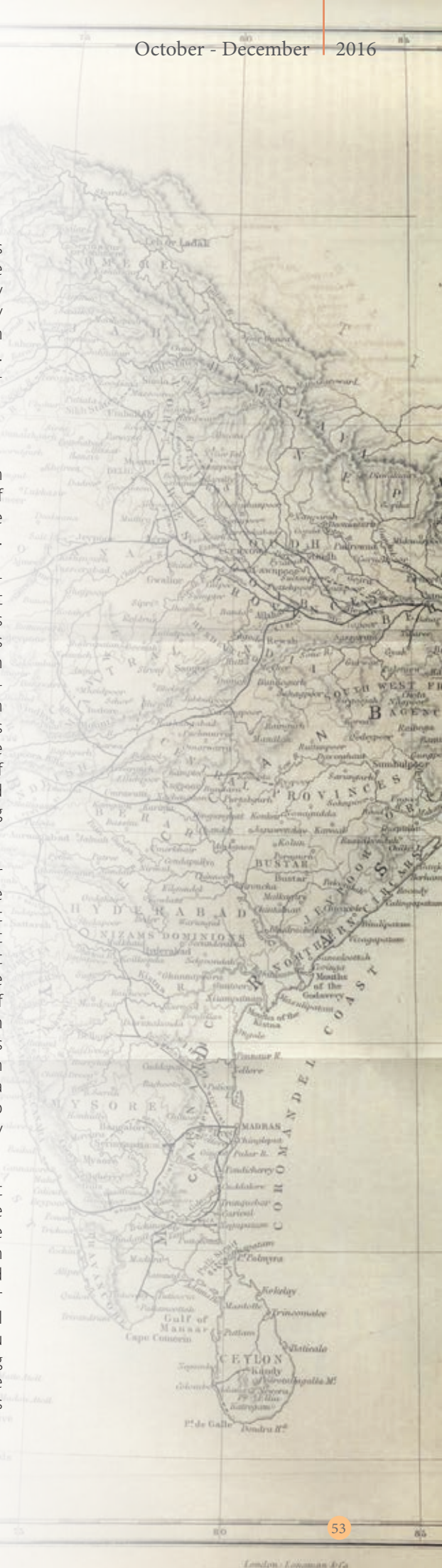
17. In more recent times, Sunil Khilnani, in his 'The Idea of India', through a series of arguments, shows that India as a nation, with a sense of nationhood, was created in the last century and a half. He sees the arrival of the modern state on the Indian landscape in that time period.

18. Some have argued that India was made possible by the self-invention of a national community as a consequence of alien conquest and colonial subjection. This is too simplistic and not true - there was something before this. The storehouse of shared narrative structures embodied in epics, myths, folk stories, and the family resemblances in styles of art, architecture and religious motifs - if not ritual practices - testify to a civilizational bond. These characteristics did bestow a certain unified coherence on lives in the subcontinent. Equally significant was India's archive of images of political community, which related culture to polity. As I mentioned before, Puranic literature expresses a sense of the subcontinent's natural geographical frontiers, reflected in a sacred geography mapped out by tirthas - pilgrimage points - scattered along the idea, and encompassed by the idea, of Bharatavarsha.

19. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is thus clear that the idea of India far predates the evolution of a modern Westphalian nation state. Even the Mauryan empire at its zenith stretched from parts of Khorasan in what is modern day Iran to encompass Afghanistan, Pakistan and most of India, barring the North East and parts of the South. There exist accounts of Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of the Mauryan empire and grandfather of Emperor Ashoka and great grandfather of Arahata Mahinda, passing away in the Jain tradition by fasting unto death near Mysore, which is in present day Karnataka. The great Ashoka's propagation of Buddhism spread far and wide across the then known world. However, the rise and fall of kingdoms and empires in India predate the Mauryas, though they were perhaps not as large. To conclude that India did not exist as an entity since it was not politically unified during long periods of its history is disingenuous.

20. In conclusion, I would like to underline the strong and vibrant relations between our two countries that received a boost with the advent of a new government in Sri Lanka in January 2015. There have been close contacts at the highest levels and frequent visits to each other's countries by our leaders. While our political, religious and cultural relations continue to thrive, we remain committed to taking our economic and commercial engagement to the next level for the mutual benefit of our people. As members of the Sri Lanka-India Society you play an important role as Ambassadors and votaries of strengthening this relationship. I am confident that you will continue to do so in the future and would like to extend my best wishes to all of you in this noble endeavour.

Thank you.



Inauguration of English Language Lab, built with grant assistance of Government of India, in Ratnapura

September 14, 2016



also trained five master trainers for each Centre.

The objective of the project is to help enhance English Language training infrastructure in Sri Lanka; impart training to English language teachers from schools, colleges and universities in Sri Lanka; upgrade their skills; and raise the general level of proficiency in English.

High Commissioner of India, Shri Y. K. Sinha and Governor of Sabaragamuwa province, Hon'ble Marshal Perera jointly inaugurated an English Language Lab in Kahawatta, Ratnapura on September 13, 2016 at a function held at Ruwanpura National College of Education, Kahawatta. Assistant High Commissioner of India, Kandy, Ms. Radha Venkataraman, Director, Tamil Schools Development of Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka, Mr. S. Muralidharan and other senior officials were also present during the occasion.

The Language Lab in Ruwanpura National College of Education is one of the nine labs that the Government of India has set up in each of the nine provinces of Sri Lanka. Other labs are in Gampaha (Western Province), Kandy (Central Province), Bingiriya (North Western Province) and Adalaichenai (Eastern Province), Matara (Southern Province), Badulla (Uva Province), Kopay (Northern Province) and Polonnaruwa (North Central Province).

The project has been implemented as part of an MoU signed between India and Sri Lanka in 2011 for "Setting up of a Three-Tier English Language Training System in Sri Lanka". The total cost of the project is SLR 84 million, implemented under full grant assistance of the Government of India. As part of the project, Government of India has provided 31 computer units and other related equipment, software and latest sophisticated teaching aids to each Centre, and has



India and Sri Lanka sign MoU to support fishing and farming communities of Hambantota district

September 15, 2016



India and Sri Lanka signed MoU to support livelihood of the fishing and farming communities in Hambantota district. The MoU was signed at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development by Shri Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Ms. W.M.M.R. Adikari, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development in the presence of Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development.

The project envisages gift of equipment and tools such as grub hoes, bicycles, life jackets and sewing machines, worth SLR 300 million, to the fishing and farming communities in Hambantota district. More than 75,000 people across the district will get direct benefit from the project. The project will be implemented in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and relevant local authorities.



India and Sri Lanka sign MoU to establish training school for Dalada Maligawa

September 20, 2016

India and Sri Lanka today signed an MoU to establish a training school for Sri Dalada Maligawa at Pallekele, Kandy. The MoU was signed at the Ministry of Buddhasasana of Sri Lanka by Shri Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Mr. Wasantha Ekanayaka, Secretary, Ministry of Buddhasasana in the presence of Hon. H.R. Sarathi Dushmantha, Acting Minister of Buddhasasana and Hon. Pradeep NilangaDela, Diyawadana Nilame, Sri Dalada Maligawa, Mr. M.A.K. Giriagama, Director General (South Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Ms. Radha Venkataraman, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy and officials of the Ministry of Buddhasasana were also present during the ceremony.



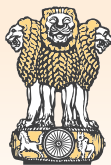
On a request from Sri Dalada Maligawa, Government of India is undertaking this project to provide necessary infrastructure to facilitate training courses in areas like Kandyan dance and drums; costumes, ornaments and musical instruments; lacquer painting; preservation of ancient paintings and frescos; mahout training; and sculpture making. The project entails construction of a training school building, multi-purpose hall, supply of furniture, office equipment, musical instruments, costumes and other equipment at a cost of SLR 120 million. High Commission of India will float a tender to select contractor/s in consultation with Ministry of Buddhasasana.



The project to support Sri Dalada Maligawa is yet another manifestation of the continued commitment of the Government of India to enhance the strong religious and cultural links that bind our two countries and people.

Earlier in 2010, Government of India installed a 16 feet idol of Lord Buddha at the entrance of the International Buddhist Museum complex in Sri Dalada Maligawa, Kandy. In 2013, an Indian Gallery that encapsulates the origins of Buddhism in India and its peaceful spread to other parts of Asia and the world was set up at the International Buddhist Museum complex under Indian grant assistance.





सत्यमेव जयते

Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Sri Lanka

The Indian Government has appointed Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu as the next High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.

A Ministry of External Affairs statement said that Shri Sandhu, a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is expected to take up his new assignment shortly. Shri Sandhu was born on January 23, 1963.

He did his schooling at The Lawrence School, Sanwar (HP) and graduated with History (Honours) from St. Stephens' college, Delhi.

Shri Sandhu has served in the

former Soviet Union (Russia) from 1990 to 1992 as Third Secretary (Political) / Second Secretary (Commercial).

He was instrumental in opening a new embassy in Ukraine and served as Head of Political and Administration from 1992 to 1994. On his return to India, Mr. Sandhu served as OSD (Press Relations), Ministry of External Affairs from 1994 to March 1997.

He was responsible for liaison with foreign media in India. In April 1997, Shri Sandhu joined Embassy of India, Washington, as First Secretary (Political) responsible for liaison with the US Congress.



Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.



Shri Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha who belongs to Indian Foreign Service's 1981 intake has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. He will soon replace Mr Navtej Singh Sarna who is moving to the USA to join his new post.

The new high commissioner – Shri Y K Sinha, is expected to take up his assignment shortly. Shri Sinha has recently completed his term as the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.

Shri Sinha is a seasoned diplomat and, in his career spanning 35 years, he has handled several important assignments at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and in Indian diplomatic missions in South Asia, the Middle East, Europe and South America.

Before coming to Sri Lanka, Shri Sinha was Additional Secretary in the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran Division at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

GSLV Successfully Launches India's Weather Satellite INSAT-3DR

September 08, 2016

In its tenth flight (GSLV-F05) conducted today, (September 08, 2016), India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, equipped with the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), successfully launched the country's weather satellite INSAT-3DR, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The achieved orbit is very close to the intended one. The launch took place from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, the spaceport of India. This was the first operational flight of GSLV equipped with CUS and the fourth to carry the indigenous CUS. Today's GSLV flight was the third consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenous CUS and the 2211 kg INSAT-3DR is the

heaviest satellite to be launched from the Indian soil.

In its oval shaped GTO, the INSAT-3DR satellite is now orbiting the Earth with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 169.76 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 36,080.5 km with an orbital inclination of 20.62 deg with respect to the equator.

After a 29 hour 40 minutes countdown, the 415 tonne, 49 m tall GSLV-F05 carrying INSAT-3DR, lifted off at the rescheduled time of 16:50 Hrs IST. The 40 minute delay in the launch was due to an anomaly observed in the functioning of a pressure release valve in the liquid Oxygen filling ground segment which was resolved later.

At 4.8 seconds before the countdown reached zero, the four liquid propellant strap-on stages of GSLV-F05, each carrying 42 tonne of liquid propellants, were ignited. At count zero and after confirming the normal performance of all the four strap-on motors, the 139 tonne solid propellant first stage core motor

was ignited and GSLV lifted off. The major phases of the flight included the core motor burn-out, strap on burn-out, ignition of the second stage, separation of the core motor together with strap-ons, payload fairing separation, second stage separation, CUS ignition and its timely shut down after satisfactory performance. About seventeen minutes after lift-off, INSAT-3DR was successfully placed in GTO.

Soon after its injection into GTO, the solar array of INSAT-3DR was automatically deployed and the Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took control of the satellite. Like its predecessor INSAT-3D which is providing service from orbit since 2013, INSAT-3DR is an advanced meteorological (weather observation) satellite built by India to provide a variety inputs essential for accurate weather forecasting. For this, it is equipped with three payloads (instruments), namely, a Multispectral Imager, Sounder and weather Data Relay Transponder. INSAT-3DR also carries a satellite aided Search and Rescue Transponder that picks up and relays alert signals originating from distress beacons of maritime, aviation and land based users.

In the coming days, INSAT-3DR's orbit will be raised from its present GTO to the final circular Geostationary Orbit (GSO) by firing the satellite's Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) in stages. The satellite will be commissioned into service after the completion of orbit raising operations and the satellite's positioning in its designated orbital slot of 74 degree East longitude in the GSO and in-orbit testing of its payloads.

Today's flight of GSLV further highlights the success of ISRO in mastering the highly complex cryogenic rocket propulsion technology.

GSLV-F05 / INSAT-3DR

GSLV-F05 is the tenth flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), launching INSAT-3DR, an advanced weather satellite, weighing 2211 kg into a Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO). GSLV is designed to inject 2 - 2.5 Tonne class of satellites into GTO. The launch took place from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota on September 08, 2016.

GSLV-F05 flight is significant since it is the first operational flight of GSLV carrying Cryogenic Upper

Stage (CUS). The indigenously developed CUS was carried on-board for the fourth time during a GSLV flight in the GSLV-F05 flight.

GSLV-F05 vehicle is configured with all its three stages including the CUS similar to the ones successfully flown during the previous GSLV-D5 and D6 missions in January 2014 and August 2015. GSLV-D5 and D6 successfully placed GSAT-14 and GSAT-6 satellites carried on-board in the intended GTOs accurately.



इसरो डिवाय
SDSC SHAR

PSLV-C35 Successfully Launches Eight Satellites into Two Different Orbits in a Single Flight

In its thirty seventh flight (PSLV-C35), ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched the 371 kg SCATSAT-1 Satellite along with seven co-passenger satellites today morning (September 26, 2016) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This is the thirty sixth consecutively successful mission of PSLV. The total weight of all the eight satellites carried on-board PSLV-C35 was 675 kg. PSLV-C35 is the first PSLV mission to launch satellites carried onboard into two different orbits. This PSLV mission was the longest of the PSLV missions conducted till date and was completed in 2 hours 15 minutes and 33 seconds after lift-off.

After PSLV-C35 lift-off at 0912 hrs (9:12 am) IST from the First Launch Pad with the ignition of the first stage, the subsequent important flight events, namely, strap-on ignitions and separations, first stage separation, second stage ignition, payload fairing separation, second stage separation, third stage ignition and separation, fourth stage ignition and cut-off, took place as planned. After a flight of 16 minutes 56 seconds, the vehicle achieved a polar Sun Synchronous Orbit of 724 km inclined at an angle of 98.1 degree to the equator (very close to the intended orbit) and 37 seconds later the primary satellite SCATSAT-1 was



separated from the PSLV fourth stage.

After separation, the two solar arrays of SCATSAT-1 satellite were deployed automatically and ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) at Bangalore took over the control of the satellite. In the coming days, the satellite will be brought to its final operational configuration following which it will begin to provide weather related services using its scatterometer payload. The data sent by SCATSAT-1 satellite will help provide weather forecasting services to user communities through the generation of wind vector products as well as cyclone detection and tracking.

After the successful separation of SCATSAT-1, the PSLV-C35 mission continued. Still carrying the seven co-passenger satellites, the fourth stage of PSLV coasted over the South polar region and then started ascending towards the Northern hemisphere. A safe distance between the orbiting SCATSAT-1 and PSLV-C35 fourth stage was maintained by suitably manoeuvring the stage.

At 1 hour 22 minutes and 38 seconds after lift-off as the fourth stage was in the North polar region, the two engines of PSLV fourth stage were reignited and fired for 20 seconds. As a result of this, it entered into an elliptical orbit measuring 725 km on one side of the Earth and 670 km on the other.

And 50 minutes later, as the PSLV fourth stage was again coasting near the south pole, its engines were fired for another 20 seconds. This second firing made the fourth stage to enter into a circular orbit of 669 km height inclined at an angle of 98.2 degree to the equator.

37 seconds later, the Dual Launch Adapter was successfully separated from the PSLV-C35 fourth stage. 30 seconds after this event, ALSAT-1N was the first co-passenger satellite to be separated successfully. Following this, the NLS-19, PRATHAM, PISAT, ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B, and Pathfinder-1 were separated from the PSLV fourth stage in a predetermined sequence thereby successfully completing PSLV-C35 mission.

Of the seven co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C35, two – PRATHAM weighing 10 kg and PISAT weighing 5.25 kg – are University/Academic institute satellites and were built with the involvement of



students from IIT-Bombay and PES University, Bangalore and its consortium, respectively.

The remaining five co-passenger satellites were international customer satellites from Algeria (three – ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B and ALSAT-1N), Canada (one- NLS-19) and the United States (one – Pathfinder-1).

With today's launch, the PSLV's capability to launch satellites into two different orbits has been successfully demonstrated. The total number of satellites launched by India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV has now reached 121, of which 42 are Indian and the remaining 79 are from abroad.

PSLV-C35 / SCATSAT-1

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its thirty-seventh flight (PSLV-C35), launches the 371 kg SCATSAT-1 for weather related studies and seven co-passenger satellites into polar Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO). Co-passenger satellites are ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B, ALSAT-1N from Algeria, NLS-19 from Canada and Pathfinder-1 from USA as well as two satellites PRATHAM from IIT Bombay and PISAT from PES University, Bengaluru.

SCATSAT-1 was placed into a 720 km Polar SSO whereas; the two Universities / Academic Institute Satellites and the five foreign satellites will be placed into a 670 km polar orbit. This is the first mission of PSLV in which payloads were launched into two different orbits.

PSLV-C35 was launched from the First Launch Pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on Monday morning at 9:12 hrs (IST) on September 26, 2016.



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

EVENTS & PROGRAMMES

Mind Management for Life Management - 2 Days Workshop.

July 1, 2016



Mr. Anurag Chhabra from India conducted a 2 days' workshop titled "Mind Management for Life Management" on 1st & 2nd July at the Centre. Several Sri Lankan government officials participated in the two days workshop. Western Province Governor Hon. Mr. Logeshwaran participated in the inaugural day session.

Hindustani Vocal Recital – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

July 8, 2016



Renowned vocalist Prof. Ojesh Pratap Singh of Delhi University presented a Hindustani Vocal Recital at the Centre.

Flute Recital by Mr. Hemapala Perera – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

July 15, 2016



Renowned flautist of Sri Lanka Mr. Hemapala Perera presented a Flute Recital at the Centre on 15th July 2016. He was accompanied on Tabla by Shantha Senarath Yapa

Kathak Recital – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

July 22, 2016



Sankaja Nimantha Pindiya & Aruni Wimansa Mawela presented a Kathak recital at the Centre on July ,

One Day Intensive Hindi Workshop – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

July 25, 2016

One Day Intensive Hindi Workshop was conducted for the students who have been



chosen under Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra Scholarship scheme to study Hindi for the year 2016-17 conducted by Dr. Kamal Kishore Goenka - Vice Chairperson of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Prof. Nanda Kishore Pandey - Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and Shri Sanjay Vedi - Programme Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi

Classical Guitar Recital by Shahnawaz Ahmed Khan

July 27, 2016



Shahnawaz Ahamed Khan from India presented a Hindustani Classical Guitar Recital at the Centre on 27th July 2016.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON TAGORE – at University of Colombo.

August 5, 2016



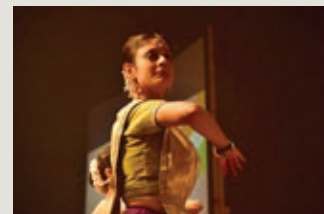
Commemorating 75th Death Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore... International



Seminar.. "REVISITING RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S LEGACY".....organised by Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies in collaboration with Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo on 4th August 2016 at Senate Hall, University of Colombo

70th Independence Day of India – at Bishops College Auditorium.

August 13, 2016



On the occasion of 70th Independence "Sahanartana" a Kathak recital by renowned Kathak danseuse Pragati Sood Anand and her ensemble held on 13th August 2016 at the Bishops College Auditorium. Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance and Mrs. Karunanayake graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Performance and workshop by Pragati Sood Anand and her ensemble.

August 14, 2016



Pragati Sood Anand and her ensemble presented a performance and workshop at the Indian Cultural Centre on 14th August 2016.

Kathak performance & Workshop by Janaki Patrik – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

September 2, 2016



Renowned Kathak danseuse Janaki Patrik conducted a Kathak workshop at the Centre on 2nd September 2016.

Meet the Director- Padmashri Dr. Girish Kasaravalli – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

September 6, 2016



Meet the Director - Padmashri Dr. Girish Kasaravalli and eminent cinematographer

Mr. Sunny Joseph screening of "Life in Metaphors" by O.P.Srivastava held at the centre on 6th September 2016

Hindi Workshop by Dr. Vijay K.Malhotra from India – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

September 11, 2016



The Hindi Faculty of the Centre organized a Hindi Workshop on 11th September 2016. The workshop was conducted by the Visiting Scholar Dr. Vijay K.Malhotra

Onam Celebrations at ICC.

September 13 at 5:26pm



The Indian Cultural Centre celebrated Onam at the Centre on 11th September 2016

Hindi Diwas 2016 – with Prof Indra Dassanayake.

September 14, 2016



The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo celebrated Hindi Diwas 2016 on 14th September. His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Competitions were held and the winners were awarded prizes.

Performance by ICC students DSCSC Sapukaskanda – at Dscsc Sapugaskanda.

September 15, 2016



The Kathak dance students of the Centre presented a cultural programme on the occasion of International Day Celebrations at the Defense Services Command and Staff College on 15th September 2016.

Presentation of Musical Instruments to the University of Kelaniya – at University of Kelaniya.

September 19, 2016



The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo presented musical instruments to the Performing Arts Department, University of Kelaniya on 19th September 2016 in the presence of the Senior Professor Sunanda Madduma Bandara - Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lakshman Seneviratne - Dean of Humanities, Dr. (Mrs.) Prashanthi Narangoda - Head of the Department of Visual Arts & Design and Performing Arts, Prof. Nandadeva - Department of Fine Arts, Mrs. Lanka de Silva - Senior Lecturer and Mrs. Rajashree Behera - Director Indian Cultural Centre. The faculty members presented a musical performance.

Lecture - Vastu Sastra for Peace and Prosperity – at Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

September 28, 2016



Lecture - Vastu Sastra for Peace and Prosperity by Master Yuvaraj Souma and Mr. Hiralal B.Jethwani held at the Centre on 28th September 2016



प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
 7-9 जनवरी 2017 - बेंगलुरु, कर्नाटक
 7-9 January 2017- Bengaluru, Karnataka
 प्रवासी भारतीय संबंधों के नए आयाम
 Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora



Ministry of External Affairs
 Government of India



Calling all NRIs & PIOs to Connect, Celebrate & Contribute! Participate in the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 7 - 9 January, 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Programme & Registration: pbdindia.gov.in
 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017

Unique Platform for Overseas Indians

- Opportunity to meet Chief Ministers, Policy Makers, Entrepreneurs, Stakeholders, Corporate Sector
- Explore Business/Investment opportunities
- Delegates can pre book B2B & B2G meetings
- Tap opportunities and platforms for 'Giving back to India'

Registrations
 Open till
 7 December, 2016

Special Registration
 fees for Groups and
 Young Overseas Indians

Highlights of PBD Convention

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address at the inaugural session
- President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee confers Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) 2017
- Minister of External Affairs Smt Sushma Swaraj's address at Youth PBD
- Chief Ministers' participation

Exhibition

- Flagship programmes of Govt of India
- Opportunities in States for NRIs & PIOs
- Schemes & programmes for NRIs & PIOs
- Corporate India, Public Sector Undertakings
- Indian Craft & Culture Bazaar

Industrial visits (by Karnataka Udyog Mitra) on 7 & 10 January

- International Tech Park Ltd. & Export Promotion Industrial Park, Whitefield
- NASSCOM Start-up Warehouse, IAMA Mobile 10x Accelerator, Centre for Excellence for IOT, Domlur
- Bio- Innovation Centre & Infosys, Electronics City
- Aerospace & Precision component manufacturing industries in Hitech, Defence & Aerospace Park

