

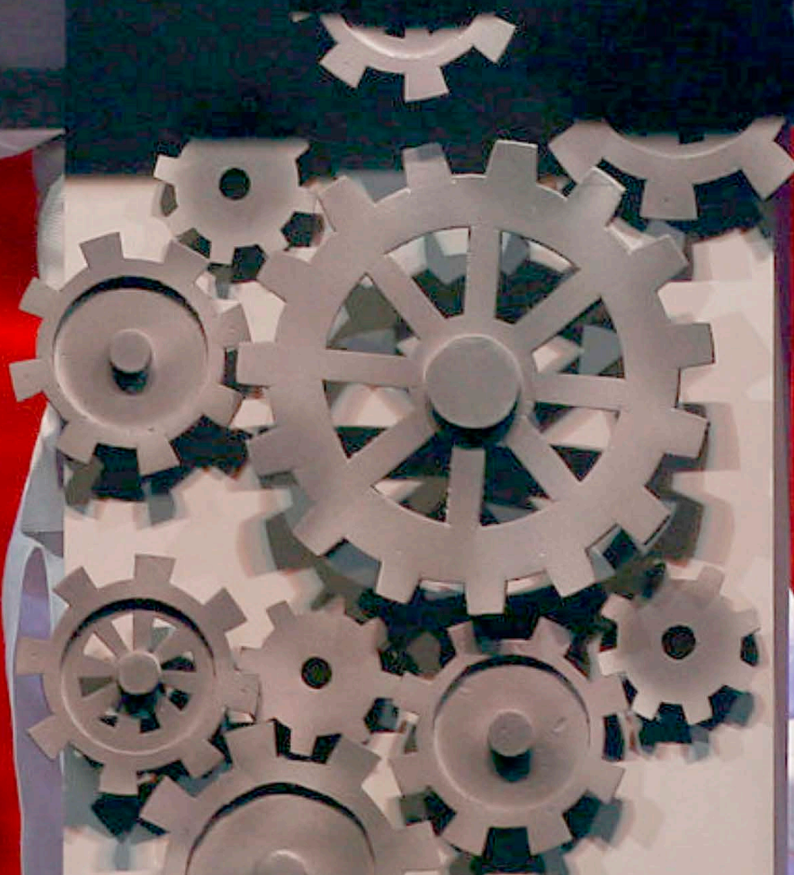


SANDESH

January - March 2016



MAKE IN INDIA



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Front Cover:

Indian Prime Minister,
Shri Narendra Modi
speaks during the
inaugural ceremony of
'Make in India' week

- MEAphotogallery

INS Vikramaditya : the Indian Aircraft Carrier Visits Colombo



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MAKE IN INDIA WEEK
13TH-18TH FEBRUARY 2016/MUMBAI



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Visit of Foreign Secretary of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, to Sri Lanka

January 12-13, 2016

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary of India, visited Sri Lanka from January 12-13, 2016 for bilateral discussions with Sri Lankan leaders. His visit was part of the continued high level engagement between the two countries.

During his visit, Dr. Jaishankar called on H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka; Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, and H.E. Ms. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, former

President of Sri Lanka. He also met Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mangala Samaraweera; Hon'ble Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade, Mr. Malik Samarawickrama; Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Mr. R. Sampanthan, and Ms. Chitrangane Wagiswara, Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Jaishankar reviewed various aspects of the bilateral relationship, including preparations for the forthcoming Joint Commission Meeting.





State Visit of President Francois Hollande of the French Republic to India

January 24-26, 2016

The State Visit of the President of the French Republic Mr. François Hollande to India and his presence as the Chief Guest at India's 67th Republic Day celebrations was a special occasion for India to warmly receive a trusted and valued friend. This was President Hollande's second State Visit to India and the fifth time that a French Head of State or Government has been invited as the Chief Guest on India's Republic Day celebrations, making France the country that has been extended this honour the highest number of times so far.

As a symbol of friendship and trust between the two countries, India honoured France in its 67th Republic Day Parade through the participation of a French military contingent, making France the first country to receive such an honour.

The visit took place nine months after Prime Minister Shri Modi's successful visit to France in April 2015. It built on the close interactions between the two leaders at the G20 meeting in November 2014 in Brisbane, the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and at the COP 21 in November 2015 in Paris and underscores their shared commitment to intensifying and strengthening the close and longstanding strategic partnership between India and France.

Strategic Partnership

India and France share foundational values of individual liberty, human rights, rule of law and value their independence and strategic autonomy. As Strategic Partners, the two countries share converging views on key regional and global issues and continue to consult each other closely on strategic and security matters of mutual interest.

India and France reiterated the need for urgent reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, through an expansion in both categories of membership, to make it more representative of the contemporary world. France reaffirmed its support for India's candidature for a permanent membership of the UN Security Council. The two countries welcomed the forward movement on the issue of United Nations reforms to the stage of text-based negotiations and the important role played by France in this process. The two Leaders welcomed the constructive discussions at the recent bilateral consultations on UN issues on 22 January 2016 and welcomed the convergence of views on major regional & international issues.

India and France share common concerns and objectives in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In order to strengthen global non-proliferation and export control regimes, France and India committed to continue to work jointly towards India's accession to the multilateral export control regimes, namely, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Australia Group, and the Wassenaar Arrangement. France reaffirmed its strong and active support to building consensus among regimes' members on this issue, recognizing that India's accession will add value to the aims and objectives of these regimes. India and France underscored their determination to achieve the accession of India to the NSG in 2016. France and India underlined their support for negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) on the basis of the Shannon mandate, which remains an essential foundation for progress on the issue in the Conference on Disarmament.



Security

India and France reiterated their commitment to counter terrorism and welcomed the separate joint statement on Counter-terrorism cooperation issued by the two sides.

The President of France and the Prime Minister of India agreed to intensify cooperation between the Indian and French security forces in the fields of homeland security, cyber security, Special Forces and intelligence-sharing to fight against criminal networks and tackle the common threat of terrorism. They looked forward to early conclusion of an Agreement on Prevention of Consumption of Illicit Drugs & Psychotropic Substances between the two countries and expressed hope that cooperation in this field will also lead to the disruption of terrorist financing structures.

The leaders also welcomed the first-ever bilateral dialogue on Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region held on January 14-15, 2016 in Paris which paved the way for enhanced cooperation in maintaining the safety of sea-lanes for trade and communications, countering the threat of piracy and maritime terrorism, maritime domain awareness and fostering trade and economic links in the Indian Ocean Region.

Defence

The Leaders noted with satisfaction, that the bilateral Agreement on Defence Cooperation concluded in 2006 has advanced cooperation in defence cooperation, production, research and development and procurement of defence material. The two sides agreed that the Agreement on Defence Cooperation will be extended for another ten years.

The Leaders stressed the importance of joint military

exercises. They welcomed the successful air exercise Garuda in June 2014 and naval exercise Varuna in April 2015, in which the French carrier strike group participated. They welcomed the latest round of the Shakti exercise held in India from 6-20 January which brought out useful operational lessons for the two Armies, especially in countering terrorism. The Leaders welcomed the port call at Toulon by the Indian Naval Ship Trikanth in September 2015, and the conduct of a joint exercise to enhance interoperability between the two navies. The French multi-mission frigate Provence will participate in the International Fleet Review at Visakhapatnam in February 2016.

The two Leaders underlined the long history of cooperation between France and India in the defence sector and acknowledged the strong commitment of French companies to manufacturing in India. They called for further intensification of cooperation in agreed areas, including collaboration in defence technologies, research and development. In response to the new emphasis on defence manufacturing by the Government of India, they encouraged their respective business enterprises to enter into arrangements for co-development and co-production of defence equipment in India, including transfer of know-how and technologies. The Leaders also welcomed various joint ventures between Indian and French companies already underway and pledged their support to public and private enterprises for intensifying cooperation in this field.

The two Leaders welcomed the conclusion of the Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) on the acquisition of 36 Rafale fighter aircrafts in flyaway condition, except for some financial issues relating to the IGA which they agreed must be resolved as soon as possible.

The two leaders also agreed to intensify cooperation

between the Indian and French Armed Forces in the fields of cyber security, Special Forces and intelligence-sharing to tackle the common threat of terrorism.

President Hollande thanked Prime Minister Shri Modi for inviting a French military band and contingent to participate in India's 67th Republic Day Parade.

Nuclear energy

Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to responsible and sustainable development of civil nuclear energy with highest consideration to safety, security, non-proliferation and environmental protection. France and India underscored the contribution of nuclear energy to their energy security and to the fight against climate change.

France reaffirmed its strong and long standing support for India's candidacy to the international export control regimes and in particular to the NSG.

In pursuance of the 2008 Agreement on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between India and France, the two leaders encouraged their industrial companies to conclude techno-commercial negotiations by the end of 2016 for the construction of six nuclear power reactor units at Jaitapur, with due consideration to cost viability of the project, economical financing from the French side, collaboration on transfer of technology and cost-effective localisation of manufacturing in India for large and critical components in accord with Government of India's "Make in India" initiative.

France acknowledged the need for India to have lifetime guarantee of fuel supply and renewed its commitment to reliable, uninterrupted and continued access to nuclear fuel supply throughout the entire lifetime of the plants, as stated in the 2008 bilateral IGA on nuclear cooperation.

The two leaders agreed on a roadmap of cooperation to speed up discussions on the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project in 2016. Their shared aim is to start the implementation of the project in early 2017.

In this context, the two leaders noted with satisfaction, the ongoing time-bound implementation of cooperation between AREVA and L&T under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in April 2015 for large-scale localisation of components for the nuclear power project at Jaitapur, as well as the good progress in pre-engineering studies for the project being carried out by AREVA in collaboration with NPCIL.

Prime Minister Shri Modi and President Hollande welcomed the initialing of revised MOU between EDF and NPCIL for the construction of six EPR units at Jaitapur.

France welcomed the decision by the Government of India to ratify the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

The two leaders welcomed the regular engagement between their atomic energy organizations and their growing collaboration in mutually beneficial scientific and R&D sectors related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

They also appreciated the long-standing relations between their nuclear regulatory authorities – India's AERB and France's ASN – which has facilitated sharing of valuable experiences, best practices and developments related to nuclear safety and regulatory issues.

Common commitment to clean and sustainable development

Climate Change

The visit to India was the first foreign visit by President Hollande since the conclusion of COP21. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated President Francois Hollande for France's valuable leadership and sustained diplomatic efforts that paved the way for the



successful conclusion of COP21 in Paris in December 2015 and adoption of the Paris agreement, based on the principles of climate justice, and fostering climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development. President Hollande thanked India and Prime Minister Shri Modi for playing an important and proactive role in the negotiations. India and France agreed to continue to work with each other and with the global community towards the realization of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In the wake of the Paris Agreement adopted at

the end of the COP-21, the bilateral cooperation between France and India is today, more than ever committed to meet the climate challenge. In line with the Paris Agreement, the two countries wish to carry out its implementation by promoting collaboration in sustainable development and energy, between governments, regions, cities and also companies.

International Solar Alliance

Translating their shared commitment to clean energy and combating climate change into practical action, President Hollande and Prime Minister Shri Modi jointly launched the new International Solar Alliance (ISA) initiative in Paris on 30 November 2015 on the sidelines of the COP 21. To advance this initiative, the two leaders jointly laid the foundation stone of the building for Headquarters of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and inaugurated the interim Secretariat of the ISA in Gurgaon, India, on January 25 2016. Reaffirming their commitment to enhance the use of solar energy globally, the leaders underlined the importance of

pledge is in line with the financing of 2 billion Euros for the development of renewable energies, announced by France during COP21.

Sustainable consumption and production patterns

The two Leaders recalled the Preamble of the Paris Agreement which recognizes that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production play an important role in addressing climate change. They emphasized the importance of sustainable lifestyles for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The two leaders' common work could lead to joint initiatives mobilizing the UN and its member states as well as a sharing of good practices. The two leaders' agreed to cooperate in initiatives mobilizing the UN and its member states as well as a sharing of good practices.

Renewable Energies and energy efficiency



Noting the important role of energy storage to promote renewable energies, the two Leaders welcomed the signature of two MoUs between CEA (French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission), Crompton Greaves

and Green Ventures. These MoUs will serve as templates for further practical collaboration in the field of renewable energy, including transfer of technology and know-how.

The two leaders stressed the importance of climate-oriented investments between the two countries. In this context, they welcomed the partnership of EDF EN and SITAC with a commitment to invest 155 million Euros in 2016. The new JV EDF EN/SITAC plans to invest 1 billion Euros by 2021.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction, the support provided by AFD (French Development Agency) to enhance energy efficiency in India, with the ongoing cooperation with the public ESCO EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) for the promotion of LED lighting, and its future support to the construction of green housing, especially for lower income groups.

Sustainable Urban Development

The two Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate towards clean and sustainable development and reaffirmed their valuable partnership in India's ambitious plans to develop Smart Cities. In this spirit,



deepening cooperation both bilaterally and under the aegis of ISA in joint research, development, financing and technology innovation as well as diffusion of clean energy and efficiency solutions that will help in promoting energy access in a clean, affordable and sustainable manner.

The two leaders welcomed the French commitment to support the solar projects launched by the member countries of ISA. To that effect, the AFD Group will provide funding amounting to 300 million Euros. This



the two Leaders welcomed :

The three MoUs signed in January 2016 between the Union Territory of Chandigarh, the State of Maharashtra, the Union Territory of Puducherry and the French Development Agency for extending technical assistance for the development of the 3 cities of Chandigarh, Nagpur and Puducherry respectively, as Smart Cities in India.

The proposed collaboration between AFD (French Agency for Development) and the Government of India for financing projects related to urban water and sanitation in Puducherry. The partnerships between Engineering Projects India Limited (EPI) and nine French companies who will be able to contribute to major infrastructures projects in India.

Transport

The two Leaders stressed the importance of clean transport and recalled the Protocol of Cooperation signed between the Indian Ministry of Railways and French National Railways SNCF in April 2015 in the field of Semi high speed rail and station development. The two Leaders welcomed the follow-up Agreement signed in December 2015 between the SNCF and Ministry of Railways to support a semi high-speed project for up-gradation of Delhi-Chandigarh line to 200 kmph. The two Leaders also welcomed the signing of the agreement between SNCF and Ministry of Railways on cooperation in the station renovation projects for Ambala and Ludhiana railway stations.

The two leaders also welcomed the Joint Venture agreement signed between the Indian Railways

and Alstom for the supply of 800 high horse power locomotives manufactured in India and the shareholding agreement signed between them during the visit to finalize the investment in the electric locomotives factory in Madhepura, Bihar.

Recalling the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Indo-French space cooperation in 2015, the leaders welcomed the signing of two Implementing Arrangements between their Space Agencies for cooperation in definition studies on a future joint Thermal Infrared Earth Observation mission and hosting of the French instrument for data collection on India's Oceansat-3 satellite. The Leaders expressed confidence that these missions would contribute significantly to the monitoring of the environment, weather, water resources and coastal zones and further strengthen the partnership between the two countries. They also welcomed the announcement of collaboration through the participation of the Centre National d'études spatiales (CNES) in future space and planetary exploration missions of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Economic Co-operation

Recalling the commitments made in the Indo-French Joint Statement issued in April 2015 for closer economic engagement, the leaders noted with satisfaction, the



involvement of French companies in several new and ongoing projects in India in keeping with the "Make in India" initiative. They equally highlighted the attractiveness of France for Indian investors, especially in terms of leveraging French technological expertise and competencies. Reaffirming their commitment to facilitating a conducive environment for enhancing bilateral trade and investment, the leaders:

- (i) Welcomed the convening of a dialogue on economic and financial issues at a higher level on cooperation in economy and finance. This framework will be the forum to discuss, on an annual basis, global and financial governance issues as well as bilateral economic and financial matters, to promote exchanges and cross

investments between our two countries and address any hurdles between French and Indian businesses and industries;

- (ii) Underlined the importance of the dialogue on trade issues through the India-France Joint Commission, as well as their strong commitment to the European Union-India Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement. France and India are committed to bring about a resumption of the negotiations as soon as possible;
- (iii) Welcomed the convening of the India-France CEO's Forum within a span of 9 months. The two leaders took positive note of the Action Taken Report and the new recommendations presented by the Co-Chairs of the CEO Forum in Chandigarh on 24 January.

Recognizing the central role of food safety regulations in the field of preventive health care and in increasing investments and the prospects for enhanced cooperation in joint risk assessment, research activities and exchange of technical knowledge in the field of food safety, the two Leaders welcomed the signing of a MoU on Cooperation between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES) of France in the

the Investment Roadshow held by Government of Karnataka in Paris and Toulouse in December 2015 and encouraged more such initiatives.

People-to-people contacts, Education, Skill development, Science & Technology

The Leaders lauded the robust people-to-people and tourism contacts between India and France, as well as the wide-ranging cultural, educational and scientific exchanges between the two countries, underpinned by the presence of a vibrant Indian diaspora in France. In this context, the Leaders expressed satisfaction that the Volontariat International en Entreprises (VIE) Scheme, announced in April 2015 to facilitate internships and professional experience for students and young professionals in both countries, had been successfully implemented. They expressed satisfaction with the Government of India's decision to increase the number of young professional beneficiaries of the French VIE program in India from 50 to 250 per year for a maximum period of stay of 2 years and with the Government of France's decision to grant an extended stay of 2 years to students of masters level and above in France. The two Leaders called upon students of both countries to derive full advantage of this facilitation to enhance their educational and professional experience.

Recognizing the commitments made in the Indo-French statements issued in February 2013 and in April 2015 concerning the negotiations of a bilateral partnership agreement on migration and mobility, the Leaders affirmed their commitment to pursue their discussions on this agreement with a view to conclude them as soon as possible.

In the field of higher education in which hundreds of agreements between French and Indian institutions have already been signed, the two Leaders welcomed :The agreement signed between

the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune and the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon.

The agreement signed between the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai and French CNRS/Telecom Bretagne/Université de Bretagne occidentale/ Université de Bretagne Sud/ENSTA Bretagne/ENI Bretagne.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sponsored Ph.D. Fellowships signed between Thales and Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai.

Recognizing that skills development was a key priority, both leaders welcomed the important role played by French companies in India in training and skilling the

field of food safety and standards.

Recognizing the shared commitment of India and France to cooperate in preventing off-shore tax evasion and the steps taken by both countries to strengthen the exchange of information in recent years, the two Leaders agreed to explore further avenues for joint co-operation, especially in capacity building and sharing of best practices, in line with G20 commitments.

Recognizing the important role of cooperation between States and Provinces of the two countries in fostering deeper bilateral economic engagement, the two Leaders welcomed the conclusion of a MoU on Cooperation in urban development between Telangana and the Bordeaux Metropole in September 2015 and



Indian workforce and encouraged them to engage even more actively in the sector.

They also welcomed partnership between the French CNCP and the National Skills Development Authority of India focusing on Qualifications Register under the framework of the MOU on cooperation signed between India and France.

The Leaders recognized with satisfaction, the role played by the Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advance Research (CEFIPRA) over the last 28 years in promoting collaboration between the scientific communities of the two countries across the knowledge innovation chain. They encouraged CEFIPRA to expand its role by implementing bilateral programmes in partnership with various scientific agencies and industries, both in France and India.

The leaders also welcomed the establishment of a Ministerial-level Joint S&T Committee to foster even closer Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation through multi-stakeholder participation from both countries.

The leaders expressed their satisfaction on the progress achieved between the Indian and French partners involved in setting up the future Institute of Marine Biology and Biotechnology.

Heritage, Culture, Sport

Prime Minister Shri Modi and President Hollande expressed satisfaction on the progress of a number of initiatives undertaken by Indian and French institutes to promote and preserve cultural heritage and enhance cultural cooperation between the two countries since Prime Minister Shri Modi's State visit to France in April 2015. In particular, they welcomed the conclusion of the Cultural Exchange Programme between India and France for the period 2016-2018 and welcomed the Administrative Arrangement concluded between the Ministry of Culture and Communication of the French Republic, the Chairman of the National Library of France and the Ministry of Culture of India.

The two Leaders lauded the joint efforts of Indian and French archaeologists that led to the remarkable archaeological discovery of human existence that could date back to 2.6 million years near Chandigarh in India. They also welcomed the launch of the book "Shadows of Gods" by Institut Français de Pondichéry extensively cataloguing Indian Objets d' Arts and cultural heritage and its important contribution to the preservation and recovery of stolen Indian art.

The leaders warmly welcomed the "Namaste France" cultural festival to be hosted by India in France from September 15 to November 30 2016 showcasing a variety of Indian cultural performances, exhibitions, fairs and workshops to highlight Indian cultural heritage and a reciprocal "Bonjour India" cultural festival of France in India in 2017.

Noting the important role played by Alliance Francaises in India, the Embassy of France/Institut Francais in India and the Indian Embassy in France in promoting French and Indian cultural activities in each others' countries, Prime Minister Shri Modi announced the inauguration of a new Indian Cultural Centre in Paris no later than in 2017. President Hollande welcomed this significant initiative towards further deepening Indo-French cultural ties and announced the opening of new centres of Alliance Francaise in Varanasi and Lucknow in 2016-2017. Both leaders also welcomed the hosting of the Regional Hindi Conference in Paris in 2016. President Hollande welcomed the announcement of 5 scholarships for French citizens to learn Sanskrit language.

In the field of sports, the Leaders welcomed the enhanced cooperation between both nations, and in this context, welcomed the cooperation agreement signed between the Federation Française de Hockey and Hockey India.



In the context of the recent agreement between Fédération Française de Football and All India Football Federation, the two Leaders welcomed the strong interest expressed by the Paris Saint-Germain Football Club to help develop grassroots football in India by reinforcing the presence of its Academy established in 2014 in Delhi and Bangalore, as well as considering a possible exhibition match in the future.

Recalling the sacrifices made in the First World War by Indian and French soldiers, the two Leaders expressed happiness at the twinning of two iconic Indian and French monuments - the India Gate in New Delhi and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

President Hollande thanked Prime Minister Shri Modi and the Government of India for the special honour extended to him and the people of France on the occasion of India's 67th Republic Day celebration and the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation.



List of MoU/Agreements exchanged at the India-France Business Summit in Chandigarh

- MoU between India and France on purchase of 36 Rafale Aircrafts
- ISRO and CNES Implementation Arrangement on hosting Argos-4 Payload onboard India's Oceansat-3 satellite
- ISRO and CNES Implementation Arrangement on a future joint Thermal Infrared earth observation mission
- Letter of Intent on CNES, France participation in ISRO's next Mars Mission
- Shareholding Agreement on JV between Alstom and Indian Railways for production of 800 electric locomotives in Madhepura Bihar
- Agreement between Indian Railways and SNCF, French Railways for joint feasibility study for the renovation of Ludhiana and Ambala railway stations
- MOU between Food Safety & Standards Authority of India and ANSES in food safety
- Partnership Agreement between Ministry of Personnel & Public Grievances and French on Cooperation in Public Administration
- Declaration of Intent for conducting next round of Namaste France (Indian festival) in 2016 and Bonjour India (French festival) 2017
- Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2016-2018
- Arrangement for establishment of an Indo- French Ministerial level Joint Committee on Science & Technology
- MoU for Industry Sponsored Ph.D Fellowship between IIT Mumbai and Thales Systemes Aeroportes
- Cooperation Agreement between IISER, Pune and ENS de Lyon (France) for joint research, teaching, exchange of personnel etc. Agreement of Cooperation between CNRS, TB, UBO, UBS,ENSTA Bretagne,ENIB (French Universities) and IIT Mumbai in the field of Higher Education & Research

List of MoU/Agreements exchanged at the India-France Business Summit in Chandigarh

- MoU between AFD and the Government of Maharashtra on technical cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development for development of smart city in Nagpur.
- MoU between AFD and The Government of the Union Territory of Chandigarh on technical cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development for development of smart city in Chandigarh.
- MoU between AFD and The Government of the Union Territory of Puducherry on technical cooperation in the field of sustainable development for development of smart city in Puducherry.
- Wind Power Development Agreement between EDF JV with SITAC RE India to jointly explore opportunities for development of wind based power project in India.
- MoU between EPI Ltd - Dassault Systèmes in urban sector development.
- MoU between EPI-Egis - urban sector development.
- MoU between EPI- Schneider Electric - urban sector development.
- MoU between EPI-Thales - urban sector development.
- MoU between EPI-EDF - urban sector development.
- MoU between EPI-Alstom - urban sector development.
- MOU between EPI-SA CAN - urban sector development.
- MoU between EPI-Lumiplan ITS India Pvt Ltd - urban sector development.
- MoU between EPI-POMA - urban sector development.
- Agreement between CEA (the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) and Green Ventures - Solar photo voltaic projects in the Indian rural areas (Varanasi, U.P.).
- Agreement between CEA (the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) and Crompton Greaves - To explore opportunities in Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) System with storage function for Indian Airports.
- Mahindra-Airbus cooperation to create the new private strategic partner for helicopters within the Make in India initiative.



Visit of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and President Francois Hollande of the French Republic to the Museum in Chandigarh for display of Archaeological findings

January 24, 2016

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Francois Hollande paid a joint visit to the Government Museum & Art Gallery in Chandigarh, as part of their engagements during the State Visit of President Hollande to India on January 24, 2016.

The two Leaders viewed the displays of archaeological findings from the foothills of the Himalayas which suggest human activity possibly dating back to 2.6 million years ago, making them among the oldest known remnants of human existence. This significant discovery is the result of seven years of extensive research and collaboration between the Prehistory Department of the National Museum of Natural History of France and the Society of Archaeological and Anthropological Research of Chandigarh undertaken under the auspices of an "Agreement of Collaboration between Society for Archaeological & Anthropological Research, India and French National Museum of Natural History".

The archaeological discovery comprises about 1500 fossil finds, including 200 quartzite tools collected from several locations spread over 50 acres of area in Masol region near Chandigarh. The research work relating to this archaeological discovery is being published in the form of articles in the Palevol Review.

Prime Minister Shri Modi and President Hollande congratulated the Indo-French team for their joint research work leading to this discovery. They underlined that this example of successful bilateral collaboration illustrated the long-standing cultural ties and enduring collaboration between India and France in rediscovering, preserving and promoting our shared cultural heritage. They hoped that such discoveries would lend further momentum for more joint endeavours in the future.



Visit of External Affairs Minister to Sri Lanka

February 06, 2016

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, led an inter-ministerial delegation to Colombo from February 5-6, 2016 for the 9th Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. She co-chaired the Joint Commission meeting on February 5, 2016 with Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mangala Samaraweera. The Joint Commission meeting, which was held after a gap of three years, reviewed the progress and developments in bilateral relations since the 8th Session held on January 22, 2013.

Minister Smt. Swaraj's visit continued the momentum of high level visits in 2015, including the visit of H. E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka to India in February 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka in March 2015 and the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, to India in September 2015. Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in January 2015 while Minister Smt. Swaraj visited Sri Lanka in March 2015 prior to the visit of the Prime Minister of India.

The Joint Commission acknowledged the depth, intensity and uniqueness of the multifaceted India-Sri Lanka relations encompassing all spheres and founded upon civilizational and close people-to-people linkages.

Discussions took stock of the preparations underway on both sides to begin negotiations on the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement. Preliminary discussions had been held during the 4th Commerce Secretary level talks in New Delhi on December 21, 2015. India will be holding a workshop in early March in Colombo on Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) and Phytosanitary Barriers (PTB) regulations and procedures. Cognizance was taken of the reconstitution of the CEOs Forum

on either side and the proposals from the Export Promotion Board of Sri Lanka for increasing trade linkages.

The Joint Commission discussed ways to further collaboration in various projects that have been under discussion, including the upgradation of Palali Airport, infrastructure development at Kankasanturai Port, Sampur power plant and a Special Economic Zone in Trincomalee, etc.

In the sector of tourism, the second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism will be held in mid 2016 to take forward the collaboration on establishing the Ramayana Trail in Sri Lanka and the Buddhist Circuit in South Asia.





The Joint Commission urged early signing of the revised Air Services Agreement that has been pending since September 2013. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the aviation sector, including in areas of aeronautical search and rescue, capacity building and training and use of the Indian satellite system GAGAN.

Sri Lanka is to propose dates for the meeting to take forward cooperation on the Oil Tank Farms in Trincomalee. Sri Lanka also invited a delegation from ONGC Videsh and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India.

Renewable energy cooperation was identified as a promising area for further cooperation. A delegation from the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is expected to visit Sri Lanka in the coming months. India thanked Sri Lanka for having endorsed the "Solar Alliance".

It was agreed that the Indian Minister for Railways would undertake a visit to further enhance the excellent cooperation already underway in the railway sector through Lines of Credit extended by India.

The Joint Commission discussions included a detailed assessment of the development cooperation projects between the two countries. The Indian housing project for construction and repair of 50,000 houses was reviewed. The Joint Commission expressed satisfaction over the completion of 44,000 houses and noted that construction is expected to commence shortly for construction of the remaining 4,000 houses in Uva and Central Provinces.

The Joint Commission felt that the Small Development Projects (SDP) scheme had been an excellent model for the development partnership between India and Sri Lanka, and noted that the bilateral MoU in this regard had been renewed in September 2015. Projects under the SDP model include establishment of Civil and Mechanical Engineering Complex in Kilinochchi Campus of University of Jaffna; Skill Development Centre of the Faculty of Agriculture in Kilinochchi

Campus of University of Jaffna; construction of Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium at the University of Ruhuna; construction of Mahatma Gandhi International Centre in Matale; establishment of English Language Labs in all the nine provinces of Sri Lanka; renovation of Duraipappah Stadium in Jaffna; and renovation of Child Development Centres in the plantation areas. The Joint Commission also reviewed prominent non-SDP projects such as the construction of the Jaffna Cultural Centre on grant basis and the water supply projects amounting to nearly US\$ 475 million to be undertaken by Indian companies under the Buyers' Credit Scheme of EXIM Bank of India. The Sri Lankan side requested the Government of India to undertake more projects under the SDP model. Following the conclusion of the talks, two new SDP MoUs were signed on renovation of infrastructure in 27 prioritized schools in the Northern Province and the construction of a surgical unit and supply of medical equipment at the teaching hospital in Batticaloa.

The Programme on Cultural Cooperation for 2015-18 was reviewed. The Joint Commission also took stock of the Festival of India "Sangam" as a celebration of the shared civilizational heritage between the two countries.

Cooperation in the sector of education was assessed, including the scholarships available to Sri Lankan students to pursue under-graduate, masters, Ph.D degrees in Indian universities, ITEC scholarships, Sri Lankan requirements for additional courses and seats and the potential to set up campuses in Sri Lanka by Indian institutions of excellence.

The Joint Commission encouraged early convening of the Joint Committee for Science and Technology related cooperation and the extension of the Programme of Cooperation which had expired in 2014.

Sri Lanka is part of the Agreement on Orbital Coordination of Satellite for SAARC region. Both sides stressed the importance of institutional linkages in the important area of space technology applications. It



was agreed that a delegation from ISRO would meet its counterpart in Sri Lanka to identify specific areas of cooperation.

Both countries agreed to encourage and facilitate collaboration and interaction in the agriculture sector and expedite implementation of the Work Plan agreed to under the MoU entered into in 2015.

Defence cooperation has been a key area of long standing cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. The Joint Commission encouraged further intensification of cooperation through the several defence related mechanisms already in place.

The Joint Commission acknowledged the importance of cooperation in counter terrorism and agreed on the need for the two countries to work together.

Sri Lanka appreciated Indian development assistance for construction of state-of-the-art 150 bed hospital in Dickoya, Hatton, construction of 200 bed ward complex and supply of medical equipment to District Hospital, Vavuniya, supply of medical equipment to

District Hospitals of Jaffna, Killinochchi and Mullaithivu. The two sides noted with satisfaction the successful implementation and review of the projects and the progress of ongoing projects in the health sector.

The Indian Government's grant assistance for setting up and operation of the Emergency Ambulance services in the Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka was also appreciated. The two sides further discussed areas of cooperation in the health sector: private sector investments, traditional medicine, training opportunities, etc.

The Joint Commission acknowledged the ancient and well-established systems of traditional medicine in India and Sri Lanka, and encouraged collaboration in this area.

The Joint Commission emphasized the importance of close links between the elected representatives of both countries. In this context, Sri Lanka welcomed the invitation from the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training for a ten member delegation from the Sri Lankan Parliament to visit India in end March 2016.

Both sides agreed to find a permanent solution to the fishermen issue. In this regard, the Sri Lankan Fisheries Minister was invited to visit India. The invitation was accepted.

Altogether, a calendar of over a dozen meetings over the next few months was discussed. 2016 was seen as the year of implementation of the potential identified during 2015.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and the External Affairs Minister of India agreed to schedule the 10th Joint Commission meeting in February 2017 in India.

On February 6, 2016, Minister Smt. Swaraj inaugurated the exhibition "Rise of Digital India" at the BMICH, which showcased advances made by India in the information technology and the digital revolution over the years.

During her visit, Minister Swaraj called on H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka; Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, and H.E. Ms. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka. She also met Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Mr. R. Sampanthan, as well as representatives of the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress and Indian Origin Tamil parties.





External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Rise of Digital India Exhibition in Colombo

February 8, 2016



External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj was on a two day visit to Sri Lanka from February 6-8, 2016, to co-chair the 9th session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission meeting along with her Sri Lankan counterpart, Mangala Samaraweera.

During her visit, Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Rise of Digital India Exhibition in Colombo on 6 February 2016. The exhibition was a part of Sangam -The Festival of India in Sri Lanka 2015-16.

The Rise of Digital India exhibition showcased the initiative of Indian government to take the benefits of Information Technology to the common man. The exhibition was a part of six month long Festival of India celebrations in Sri Lanka.

Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Inauguration of Exhibition on “Rise of Digital India” in Colombo

February 06, 2016

Hon'ble Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure of Sri Lanka, Mr. Harin Fernando,

Senior Officials of the Government of Sri Lanka,

Distinguished invitees,

I am delighted to be in the beautiful city of Colombo once again. I was here in March last year, prior to the historic visit of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to Sri Lanka. The objective of my visit this time is to co-chair the India – Sri Lanka Joint Commission with Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mangala Samaraweera, which I did yesterday. The Joint Commission provided the opportunity to comprehensively review our close bilateral partnership covering political, economic, cultural, defence and people-to-people ties. I also had good meetings with President Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. I am confident that our discussions will help push our relations to a new level.

One of the issues that I discussed with Minister Samaraweera was the importance of information technology for the development of both our countries, and to take advantage of the opportunities that the new digital world offers. We felt that there are enormous opportunities of cooperation between the two countries in the field of information and digital technologies. India has made significant progress in the information technology sector and I conveyed our readiness to assist Sri Lanka in this sector. For example, we are ready to set up an Information Technology Park in Sri Lanka that could attract investments in this important sector, and both sides agreed to explore this issue further. I am aware that Sri Lanka too, has been focusing on promoting information and communication technologies for socio-economic development, and has achieved notable success in various fields.

In my country, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has placed “Digital India” at the heart of the nation's development strategy. The “Digital India” initiative is one of the key measures to make government transparent, responsive and citizen friendly. The objective is to create a digitally empowered society and infuse technology into government, healthcare and education. Our Prime Minister has often spoken of his vision of a Digital India, wherein

technology ensures that the Citizen-Government Interface is incorruptible and where the Netizen is an empowered Citizen.

I am, therefore, delighted to be inaugurating this Exhibition on ‘Rise of Digital India’ today. The exhibition showcases the phenomenal rise of digital technologies in India, and the use of computing and application of these digital technologies in a manner which has positively impacted the lives of millions of Indians in every area of contemporary relevance such as agriculture, power generation, weather forecasting, e-commerce, atomic energy, space, communication and e-governance.

I am happy to note that this Exhibition is a part of the first Festival of India in Sri Lanka, which is aptly titled, Sangam: a confluence of cultures. The Festival of India is a celebration of our shared civilizational heritage and will further strengthen the close links between our peoples and cultures. Various events will be held as part of the Festival during 2016.

India has immense civilizational strengths. Now, India is weaving modern technologies with these inherent strengths. From creating infrastructure to services, from manufacture of products to human resource development, from enabling citizens to promoting digital literacy, Digital India aims to impact all aspects of life in India.

Most recently, the Government has announced a list of 20 smart cities in India, with Bhubaneshwar in Odisha, leading the list, where information and communication technologies will be used to enhance quality, performance and interactivity of urban services, to reduce costs and resource consumption, and to improve contact between citizens and government.

I would like to emphasize that building a Digital India is work in progress, and we will continue pursue this journey. Meanwhile, this Exhibition today is just a small glimpse of the vast strides that have already been made by our country in the last century. We are ready to share our competencies with our Sri Lankan brothers and sisters. It gives me immense pleasure to welcome our Sri Lankan friends to view this Exhibition.

Thank You.



State Visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces to India

February 10-12, 2016

At the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, HH General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces paid his first State visit to India from February 10-12, 2016. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials and captains of industry.

During the forthcoming visit, HH the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi called on Hon'ble President and held bilateral talks with Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on issues of mutual interest. The visit follows the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to UAE in August 2015, during which the two countries agreed to elevate the relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

India and UAE have historically enjoyed close and friendly relations anchored on mutually beneficial commercial exchanges and extensive people to people contacts. Our well-balanced bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 59 billion in 2014-15, making UAE our third largest trading partner. UAE is among the largest investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments. It contributes significantly to India's energy security and is the sixth largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2014-15.

About 2.6 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in UAE. Their positive and well-appreciated contribution in the development of their host country has been an important anchor of our excellent bilateral engagement.

India has vital stakes in the security and stability of the Gulf region, which hosts over seven million Indians. This region is also the source of nearly two-third of India's crude oil requirements and is our largest trading partner.





State Visit of Prime Minister of Finland to India for the “Make in India” Week in Mumbai

February 13, 2016

Prime Minister of Finland, H. E. Juha Sipilä paid an official visit to India on from February 12-14, 2016. He was accompanied by a business delegation, representing 17 Finnish companies and organisations. The business delegation included representatives for energy and environmental technology, information technology, health care and welfare services and education.

The aim of the visit was to strengthen relations between Finland and India and promote trade and economic cooperation.

The destination of the visit was Mumbai, where Prime Minister Sipilä and the business delegation attended the launch event of “Make in India” Week. Mr. Sipilä delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

During the visit, Prime Minister also met other ministers of the Indian Government and Indian business leaders and major investors, according to the release.

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and the Prime Minister of Finland, Mr. Juha Sipilä, held official bilateral discussions on Saturday, February 13, 2016, in Mumbai. Prime Minister Sipilä participated in the inauguration of the Make in India Week. Prime Minister Sipilä was accompanied by a large business delegation.

The Prime Minister of Finland reiterated the support of Finland to India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. The two countries called for forward movement in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform, and expressed their commitment to initiate text-based negotiations within the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly. In their joint effort to

strengthen global non-proliferation objectives and the multilateral export control regimes, Prime Minister Sipilä took a positive view on India’s membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime. The Prime Minister of India thanked Finland for its support for India becoming an observer in the Arctic Council.

Both Prime Ministers acknowledged that there is wide convergence in views on the international political and economic situation. They condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated zero tolerance for this menace which seriously undermines international peace and security, growth and development. They emphasized the importance of ratification and implementation of all UN legal instruments to counter terrorism and encouraged enhanced efforts towards making progress on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. They also noted with concern mass migration of people in distress in conflict and volatile regions, especially in Africa and the Middle East.

The two Prime Ministers agreed on the need to tap the full potential of the EU-India strategic partnership, and welcomed the intention of the two sides to hold a summit in 2016. They also welcomed the prospect of resumption of talks on the India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

The Prime Ministers underlined that the relations between the two countries, which are mature democracies and based on the rule of law, have always been unproblematic.

There are more than 100 Finnish companies established in India and some 25 Indian companies in Finland. Many of the Finnish companies in India



have manufacturing plants in the country and are truly Make in India-companies. Several Finnish companies are engaged in the renewable energy and clean-tech segments. A Finnish energy company already owns two solar power plants in India and has won a bid to build a third one. A Finnish mobile phone network manufacturer has an R&D centre in India that employs 6000 people and their equipment serves 280 million mobile phone subscribers. The Indian companies in Finland are operating in diverse sectors including IT, health and tourism; they have promising prospects for enlarging their investments and involvement in Finland. The two Prime Ministers inaugurated digitally, today, Trivitron's Labsystems Diagnostics IVD (In vitro diagnostics) factory in Chennai.

The Prime Minister of Finland welcomed the efforts of the Indian Government and Prime Minister Shri Modi himself in outreach to the business sector and linking with it in a meaningful manner. The Prime Minister of India mentioned that several initiatives including Ease of Doing Business have been taken to bring in consistency, clarity and predictability in policies. Both Prime Ministers agreed that seeking speedy and fair solutions to investment issues and conduct of Mutual Agreement Procedure are important elements in increasing investor confidence.

The Prime Minister of Finland highlighted Finland's capacities in the civil nuclear energy field. There are four reactors in operation in Finland and new ones are being built and planned. Finnish companies and relevant government agencies can offer solutions related to safety and security ecosystems in nuclear power plants.

Both Prime Ministers agreed that there would be a lot to gain to increase cooperation in innovation and transforming ideas into internationally marketable products. They agreed that the cooperation between universities and institutes of higher learning is an important part of this cooperation. They also agreed that digitization and the Internet of Things are emerging technologies that the innovators from both

countries could take forward in cooperation. Both the leaders appreciated the on-going cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovation which had emphasis on Energy Research projects encompassing solar, hybrid and smart grid systems. DST-TEKES together also promote and support business led collaborative R&D on clean tech, biomedical devices and electronic system & design manufacturing. Both sides acknowledged the relevance of promoting technology based start-ups.

The two leaders noted that about 20000 Finnish tourists visit India every year and the facility of eTourist visa to Finnish nationals as also recent Indian investment in Finland in this sector is going to further facilitate people to people exchanges.

The two sides appreciated recent conclusion of an MoU between Civil Aviation authorities on code shares, intermodal services, routing flexibility, open sky on cargo and on domestic code-sharing; the finalization of the text of the agreement on gainful employment by dependent family members of the diplomatic staff; noted ongoing negotiations on waiver of visas for diplomatic passport holders; and the decision to move forward with a bio-refinery project for production of fuel grade Ethanol, acetic acid, furfural and bio-coal from bamboo in Assam.

Prime Minister Sipilä invited Prime Minister Shri Modi to visit Finland.





State Visit of Prime Minister of Sweden to India for the “Make in India” Week in Mumbai

February 13-14, 2016

Prime Minister of Sweden H.E. Stefan Löfven visited India on February 13-14, 2016, with the largest business delegation that he has led to any country. He was accompanied by a number of senior officials including the State Secretary in Prime Minister's Office Mr. Hans Dahlgren, State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Mr. Jan Salestrand and the State Secretary in the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation Mr. Oscar Stenström.

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Löfven, along with the Prime Minister of Finland jointly inaugurated the “Make in India” Centre on 13th February. Prime Minister Shri Modi and Prime Minister Löfven visited the Swedish pavilion, which was the largest foreign country pavilion in the Centre event. Prime Minister Löfven and leading members of the Swedish business delegation participated thereafter in a lunch hosted by the Prime Minister of India for the visiting dignitaries and business leaders.

Prime Minister Löfven and the official delegation had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India during which the two leaders discussed the areas that held the highest potential for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. The Joint Statement released after the meeting, titled ‘New Momentum, Higher Ambition’ (available at the website of the Indian Embassy in Sweden www.indianembassy.se and the Ministry of External Affairs www.mea.gov.in) enumerates the points discussed by the two leaders and the steps they agreed to take to strengthen the relations between the two countries. These include the following:

1. They welcomed the creation of an India-Sweden Business Leader Round Table during the visit.
2. They endorsed the creation of a new Joint Working Group on Digital Technologies and Economy.
3. They took note of the synergies in the field of innovation and Prime Minister Löfven extended an invitation to Indian delegation to visit Sweden for a bilateral Sweden-India Innovation Dialogue.
4. They acknowledged the potential for successful collaboration in defence and agreed that under the rubric of Make in India, cooperation possibilities between their respective defence industries could be identified and taken forward appropriately, including in the field of aviation.
5. Both sides recognized that enhancing awareness of each other's cultures boosts people-to-people ties and welcomed reciprocal festivals of ‘Namaste Stockholm’ in Sweden and Sweden-India Nobel Memorial Week in India.
6. Both Prime Ministers agreed to a deeper bilateral dialogue on UN Issues at both capital and UN-Mission-level. They reiterated the need for urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council through an expansion in both categories of membership, to make it more effective and representative of the contemporary geo-political realities.
7. Prime Minister Shri Modi reaffirmed India's support for Sweden's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2017-18.
8. In their joint efforts to strengthen global non-proliferation and disarmament objectives, India and Sweden committed to work towards India's further participation in the multilateral export control regimes.
9. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the need to continue and step up efforts to ensure gender



equality, respect for women's and girls' rights and empowerment of women and girls in all sphere of life.

The packed programme of Prime Minister Löfven on 13th February included an address at the inauguration of the Make in India Week in Mumbai and in the country's seminar on Sweden.

Prime Minister Löfven and Finance Minister of India H.E. Arun Jaitley addressed a Round Table of Sweden and Indian CEOs, led by Mr. Marcus Wallenberg, Chairman, SEB and Mr. Baba Kalyani, CMD, Bharat Forge Ltd. Nearly 30 Indian CEOs participated in the meeting, representing diverse sectors while from the Swedish side, besides the senior leadership from about 20 companies, Director Generals and CEOs from key agencies such as Vinnova, Swedish Energy Agency, Swedish Post & Telecom Authority, Swedish Export Credit Corporation, Swedish National Export Credit Guarantees Board and Swedfund also participated.

Prime Minister Löfven also met the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the two dignitaries witnessed the handing over of the first Volvo Hybrid Bus to the Navi Mumbai Municipality. Prime Minister Löfven extended an invitation to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to visit Sweden.

Prime Minister Löfven proceeded to Pune in the afternoon of 14th February. Pune has had the privilege of hosting a large number of Swedish companies and Prime Minister Löfven visited two of the leading Swedish companies which have been making in India for several years: Ericsson and Tetrapak.

While Prime Minister Löfven returned to Stockholm from Pune, State Secretary for Enterprise & Innovation Mr. Oscar Stenström and members of the Swedish business delegation had meetings on 14th and 15th February with the Minister of Communications & Information Technology Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Minister for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping Mr. Nitin Gadkari and the Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises Mr. Anant Geete. They also had a round table with Secretary, Department of Industrial

Policy & Promotion (DIPP) Mr. Amitabh Kant and the incoming Secretary (DIPP) Mr. Ramesh Abhishek who takes over his position next month. On 15th February, State Secretary for Defence Mr. Jan Salestrand had a meeting with the Minister for Defence Mr. Manohar Parrikar.

The Governments of India and Sweden signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector. The MoU was signed on 15 February 2016 in India by Mr. Girish Pillai, Adviser (Infrastructure), Ministry of Railways of India, and Mr. Oscar Stenström, State Secretary, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation of Sweden

This visit has further enhanced the momentum and substance that had been imparted to India-Sweden relations by the landmark state visit of the President of India to Stockholm in May 2015.

Prime Minister Löfven has invited Prime Minister Shri





Visit of Nepal's Prime Minister, Shri KP Sharma Oli, to India

February 19-24, 2016

Nepal's Prime Minister, Shri Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli with a strong delegation of 71 members including Deputy Prime Minister, Finance and Home Minister was on a six day visit to India from February 19- 24, 2016. Mr Oli was accompanied by wife Radhika Shakya, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Thapa, Finance Minister Bishnu Poudyal, Energy Minister Top Bahadur Rayamaji and Home Minister Shakti Basnet among others.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj received Mr. Oli, accompanied by a 77-member delegation, at the airport, reflecting importance India attaches to the visit.

Mr. Oli and Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi held extensive talks on a range of issues tomorrow following which both sides signed a number of pacts to step up cooperation in several key sectors.

It is the first bilateral visit by a Nepalese Prime Minister after the trip by the then premier Baburam Bhattarai in October 2011. Mr Oli's predecessor Shri Sushil

Koirala had attended Shri Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony in May 2014.

Smt. Swaraj, Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley called on the Nepalese Prime Minister. Mr. Oli also called on President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Hamid Ansari.

During his stay, he visited Dehradun to inspect the Tehri hydel power and addressed the Indian Council for World Affairs and attend a business meeting.

He also visited Bhuj in Gujarat and had a first-hand experience of the earthquake reconstruction work there. Nepal was struck by a devastating quake in April last year and is currently in the process of carrying out reconstruction work.

Later he visited Mumbai from Gujarat and met Maharashtra Governor. He concluded his visit on February 24, 2016.





Visit of Prime Minister of Bhutan to India

February 16, 2016

India and Bhutan held talks on February 16, 2016 on key bilateral and regional issues including implementation of India-assisted development projects in hydro power and other sectors in the Buddhist nation.

External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj hosted a dinner for Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay over which both the leaders deliberated on issues of mutual interest besides reviewing implementation of India sponsored projects in Bhutan.

Tobgay said friendship between India and Bhutan is a “model” which other neighbouring countries may draw inspiration from.

Bhutanese Prime Minister conveyed to Smt. Swaraj that 498 small development projects have been approved. A total of 3,000 projects are being implemented in Bhutan with assistance from India.

The two leaders also reviewed implementation of three major hydro-power projects including the 720MW capacity Mangdechhu plant. Two other power projects with combined capacity of 2220MW are also being implemented with India’s support.

Tobgay also extended an invitation to Smt. Swaraj to visit Bhutan. She had visited Bhutan in June 2014 along with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.





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

March 30, 2016

On March 30, 2016, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Brussels for the first leg of his three-nation visit to Belgium, the US and Saudi Arabia.

Alongside attending the India-EU Summit and holding talks with his Belgian counterpart, Charles Michael, Shri Modi also addressed the Indian diaspora living in Brussels. The community event was organised by the Europe India Forum, who estimated that roughly 5,000 people turned by to hear the Indian Prime Minister speak.

The event resembled others that have been organised by the Indian diaspora living abroad during Shri Modi's visit to their host countries. At the event in Belgium, a minute of silence was held in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the Brussels terror attacks one week earlier.

Ahead of his visit to Belgium, Shri Modi commended the "resilience and spirit" of the Belgium people in the wake of the bombings. He added that India stood "shoulder to shoulder" with them and shared the grief of those who had lost loved ones during the "horrific attacks".





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

March 31, 2016



Prime Minister paid a visit to United States on March 31, 2016 to attend the fourth Nuclear Security Summit (NSS).

This is Prime Minister Shri Modi's third visit to United States in nearly two years. Leaders of 53 nations and four international organisations will be attending the NSS in Washington D.C.

It was a short visit but Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi maximised the time and presence of 50 world leaders at the Nuclear Security Summit to India's advantage with sharp and targeted diplomacy.

Shri Modi highlighted India's progress in developing a "strong security culture" to establish even more "street creds" as a responsible nuclear power. At the same time, he used the opportunity to garner support for India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) – the next step in the world's acceptance of India in the global nuclear scheme.

Key announcements at the summit included India joining three "gift baskets" or joint endeavours in priority areas – countering nuclear smuggling, the

contact group in Vienna to carry on the work of the summit, and sharing best practices through centres of excellence. In addition, New Delhi will host an international conference with Interpol, a key player in preventing the smuggling of nuclear, biological, radiological and chemical materials.

Shri Modi released India's national progress report, which underlines the various steps the country has taken on nuclear security – updating export controls for companies manufacturing nuclear technology, taking "robust strides" towards implementing nuclear safeguards, setting up an inter-ministerial counter-smuggling team, using low-enriched uranium instead of high-enriched uranium (HEU) and shutting down the only reactor using HEU, setting up 23 response centres across the country to take care of any nuclear or radiological emergency and putting a cyber security architecture in place.

Apart from doing things at home, India is also active on the international front. It announced a \$1 million grant for the International Atomic Energy Agency, the lead organisation invested in strengthening nuclear security, in addition to the \$1 million it contributed in 2013.



SECURITY SUMMIT

WASHINGTON 2016



Shri Modi meets Abe, Cameron, Trudeau on the sidelines of NSS in Washington

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Shri Modi met Prime Ministers Shinzo Abe of Japan, David Cameron of the United Kingdom and Justin Trudeau of Canada on the sidelines of the fourth National Security Summit (NSS) here on Friday.

During his meeting with Mr. Abe, the two leaders reviewed the decisions taken during the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to India in December 2015 and expressed satisfaction at the strong pace of implementation.

Mr. Abe conveyed to Shri Modi that a survey mission from Japan would visit India in Japan in May to take forward the Convention Centre project in Varanasi. They also discussed measures to promote further trade and investment.

Shri Modi thanked Mr. Abe for Japan's strong participation in the recent International Fleet Review hosted by the Indian Navy.

The two leaders also discussed the continuing threat of terrorism and the need for the international community to eschew selective approaches. They also reviewed global and regional issues.

"In line with the Special Strategic and Global Partnership with Japan, discussions were held in a very cordial atmosphere," an official statement said.

Mr. Abe thanked Shri Modi for the hospitality extended to him during his visit to India in December 2015 and described his visit to Varanasi as "unforgettable".

He said that, under Shri Modi's leadership, the Indian

economy was now serving as the engine of global growth.

He also said that he looked forward to Shri Modi's bilateral visit to Japan later this year.

During his meeting with Mr. Trudeau, Shri Modi said new energy and dynamism had been imparted to relations between the two countries in recent months.

He spoke of immense possibilities for further expanding the relationship in the economic sphere. He recalled his meeting with the heads of Canadian pension funds during his visit to Canada last year, and observed that some of these funds are now investing in India.

Mr. Trudeau congratulated Shri Modi for his intervention during the NSS dinner yesterday, and said Canada and India could be leaders in efforts towards non-proliferation.



Shri Modi also spoke of India's thrust towards renewable energy. He mentioned smart cities, urban infrastructure and skill development as areas where Canada could further deepen its engagement with India. He also mentioned India's progressive policy in the hydrocarbon sector, and sought Canadian cooperation in the areas of coal gasification and underground mining of coal.

Mr. Trudeau accepted Shri Modi's invitation to visit India.

During Shri Modi's meeting with Mr. Cameron, both leaders recalled the Indian Prime Minister's visit to the UK last year. Shri Modi said ties between the two countries had become richer and deeper.

Defence cooperation came up for discussion and Shri Modi mentioned that the UK could be a partner in the Make in India initiative, especially in the defence sector. Visa issues also came up for discussion, the release added.

Courtesy: www.thewire.in & www.netindian.in



67th Republic Day of India





67th Republic Day of India celebrations in Sri Lanka

January 26, 2016

The High Commission of India and the Indian expatriate community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 67th Republic Day of India on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at India House in Colombo. High Commissioner Mr. Y.K. Sinha unfurled the Indian flag and inspected a Guard of Honour presented by a contingent of the Border Security Force. He read out excerpts from the Address to the Nation on the eve of the Republic Day by the Hon'ble President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

High Commissioner stated that the President of India had highlighted that despite facing many challenges in 2015, India is poised to become the fastest growing large economy with a growth rate of 7.3 percent.

The Hon'ble President has noted that countries on our subcontinent have a historic opportunity to resolve the complex edges of geo-political inheritance with our neighbours through peaceful dialogue, and invest in mutual prosperity. The scourge of terrorism has to be eliminated, as there is no good or bad terrorism; it is pure evil. The Hon'ble President has also stated that the advent of the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" necessitates the creation of an eco-system that fosters critical thinking and makes teaching intellectually stimulating.

Speaking about the state of India-Sri Lanka relations, High Commissioner highlighted that the previous year has been quite transformative for India-Sri Lanka relations and congratulated the Government of Sri Lanka on completion of one year in office. He noted that four high level bilateral visits within 90 days of the formation of a new government in Sri Lanka last year heralded a new chapter in our relations. The momentum of these relations will be maintained by the forthcoming visit of External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, to Sri Lanka for the Joint Commission Meeting.

High Commissioner stated that Sri Lanka continues to be a key part of India's "neighbourhood first" policy. An important element in strengthening bilateral ties with Sri Lanka will be deepening economic and commercial relations. He expressed the hope that Sri Lankan businesses will take advantage of their proximity to the fastest growing major economy in the world. He also referred to the proposal made by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, during his visit to India in September 2015 to conclude a bilateral Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

High Commissioner noted the increasing air connectivity between the two countries, and the growing tourist arrivals from India in Sri Lanka. He recalled that, in pursuance of the announcement made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Sri Lanka, the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme has been extended to Sri Lankan nationals from April 14, 2015, and eTV fee for Sri Lankan nationals was subsequently reduced.

High Commissioner added that India's total development assistance commitment to Sri Lanka is now around US\$ 2.6 billion, covering all areas of contemporary relevance. High Commissioner stated that the Indian flagship housing project, which aims to construct 50,000 houses, is proceeding well with around 44,000 houses constructed till date. The third phase, to construct 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces will be launched very shortly.

High Commissioner referred to the ongoing Festival of India in Sri Lanka, the theme of which is "Sangam": which succinctly epitomizes the confluence of cultures of India and Sri Lanka. In the field of defence, High Commissioner alluded to the strong bilateral defence ties, the testimony of which was the visit to Colombo by India's state of the art aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya.



last week, its first foreign port of call since being inducted into the Indian Navy.

High Commissioner concluded by affirming that India has an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka and remains committed to Sri Lanka's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

A brief cultural programme organized by the Indian Cultural Centre followed, which included singing of patriotic songs and dance performances by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre. Subsequently, the High Commissioner of India and other officials of the High Commission paid their respects to the memory of fallen soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in a solemn ceremony at the IPKF memorial in Colombo.

To commemorate India's 67th Republic Day, famous Indian sitar maestro, Shri Purbayan Chatterjee, and

his group, presented a concert titled "Stringstruck" on January 25, 2015 at the Bishop's College Auditorium, Colombo. Hon'ble Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest at the function. The performance was extremely well received.

The Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota and the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy also celebrated the 67th Republic Day by organizing flag hoisting ceremonies this morning.

H.E. Mr. Y K Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Mrs. Sinha hosted a Reception at the India House in the evening for the Sri Lankan dignitaries, diplomatic corps, eminent members from a cross-section of Sri Lankan society, including art, culture, media, think-tanks, films, theatre, academics, etc. and prominent members of the Indian community.





Message on the occasion of India's 67th Republic Day by H.E. Shri Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka

January 26, 2016

On the occasion of the 67th Republic Day of India, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to my fellow Indian citizens and to the friendly people and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The last year has been quite transformative for India-Sri Lanka relations. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Sri Lanka on completion of one year in office. Four high level bilateral visits within 90 days of the formation of a new government in Sri Lanka last year heralded a new chapter in our relations. President Maithripala Sirisena paid a State Visit to India in February 2015, which was his first overseas visit after assuming office. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a historic visit to Sri Lanka in March, the first stand alone bilateral visit to Sri Lanka by an Indian Prime Minister since 1987. There was also an exchange of visits between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries during the first three months of 2015. In September 2015, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe visited New Delhi, his first official visit abroad after the January elections. Various agreements and MOUs were concluded during these visits.

The momentum generated by these visits has continued this year. Our Foreign Secretary visited earlier this month and had a series of very useful meetings. We now look forward to the visit of our External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, to Sri Lanka for the Joint Commission Meeting. Both countries are now working to take forward the agenda drawn up during these high level visits.

Sri Lanka continues to be a key part of India's "neighbourhood first" policy, which recognizes that India's neighbours, such as Sri Lanka, have a first claim on India, and that India's growth is linked to the prosperity of its neighborhood. In this regard, India will continue to promote greater connectivity among SAARC countries, which is important for regional integration and economic progress.

A key element in strengthening bilateral ties with Sri Lanka will be deepening economic and commercial relations. We hope that Sri Lankan businesses will take advantage of their proximity to the fastest growing major economy in the world. The "Make in India" scheme offers great potential for those looking

to invest in India. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has recently launched another ambitious new scheme, "Startup India, Standup India", in addition to the "Make in India" initiative. This scheme involves a 19-point action plan for start-up enterprises in India, including a self-certification scheme related to nine labour and environment laws. The scheme, inter alia, seeks to encourage those ventures that would boost employment generation and assist in wealth creation. We invite Sri Lankan investors to take advantage of these initiatives.

I would like to highlight that bilateral trade remained buoyant in 2015. During the period January – November 2015, Sri Lankan imports from India amounted to US\$ 3.75 billion, up by 6.17%, and Sri Lankan exports to India amounted to US\$ 599 million, up by 12.3%, as compared to the same period in 2014. India is among the top investors in Sri Lanka with cumulative investments of over US\$ 1 billion since 2003.

During his visit to India in September 2015, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe proposed concluding a bilateral Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement. We welcome the emphasis laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to promote the economic pillar of our relationship, and both sides are working together to fulfill the mandate given by our Prime Ministers, and conclude this agreement at an early date. This will not only boost trade, investment and technology cooperation, but also promote sub-regional economic integration and enhance people-to-people contacts. We are also looking to fast track various other ongoing projects, particularly in the power sector, railways and energy this year.

The increasing air connectivity between our two countries is a good reflection of the strengthening bilateral linkages. There are now 154 flights a week between Colombo and eight destinations in India, and India continues to be the largest destination for tourists into Sri Lanka, accounting for almost one-fifth of all tourist arrivals.

Special measures were taken during 2015 to simplify issuance of Indian visas to Sri Lankan nationals. In pursuance of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to Sri Lanka, the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme was extended to Sri

Lankan nationals w.e.f. April 14, 2015, to coincide with the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Subsequently, in a goodwill gesture, the visa fee for eTV was sharply reduced. The new eTV fee for Sri Lankan nationals is only US\$ 25 (plus bank charges of 2.5%), instead of US\$ 60 (plus US\$2 bank fee) charged earlier. We hope that more Sri Lankans will avail of the opportunity to visit India using the eTV. It may be noted that the eTV scheme continues to be in addition to the regular visa scheme.

An important pillar of our bilateral relations is development cooperation. India's total development assistance commitment is now around US\$ 2.6 billion, covering areas like housing, de-mining, agriculture, education, public health and connectivity. I would like to highlight that a significant part of this assistance is in the form of outright grants. Our flagship housing project, which aims to construct 50,000 houses, is proceeding well with around 44,000 houses constructed till date. The project is being implemented in close consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka and other stakeholders, and the highest standards of objectivity and transparency are being followed, both for beneficiary selection and the payment mechanism. The third phase, to construct 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces through an innovative community-driven approach, will be launched very shortly. We will continue to extend whatever assistance we can to support Sri Lanka's development efforts.

In the cultural sphere, pursuant to an announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to Sri Lanka, the High Commission of India launched a Festival of India in Sri Lanka in November 2015, with 'Nrityarupa', a scintillating dance medley from different parts of India performed in Colombo, Kandy and Galle. The theme of the Festival is "Sangam": a confluence of cultures of India and Sri Lanka. The logo of the Festival, which is a pictorial depiction of "Sangam" in Sinhala, Hindi and Tamil, is a manifestation of the symbiotic ties that bind us. The Festival of India is a celebration of our shared civilizational heritage and will further strengthen the close links between our peoples and cultures. Various events will be held as part of the Festival during 2015-16. We will be unveiling an exhibition entitled "Rise of Digital India" in BMICH in February 2016, which will showcase the phenomenal rise of computing sector in India, and the use of computing and application of digital technologies in India since independence, which has touched the lives of millions of Indians in areas such as agriculture, power generation, weather forecasting, e-commerce, atomic energy, space, communication and e-governance.

In December 2015, an "India Corner", set up in partnership with the Jaffna Municipal Council, was inaugurated at the Jaffna Public Library.

The "India Corner" offers access to a variety of books, DVDs, periodicals and other entertainment material to the people of Jaffna. It houses books procured from India, mainly in Tamil language, and is a major step in further cementing India's cultural relationship with the people of Jaffna.

India and Sri Lanka continue to enjoy a strong defence partnership based on extensive training and close linkages between our Armed Forces. Common security concerns, especially the protection of important sea lanes in our immediate maritime neighbourhood, guide our bilateral defence exchanges. Sri Lanka is our largest partner in defence training and we will continue to expand our cooperation in this area. Regular high level exchanges of visits, joint training and exercises, ship visits and sports interactions are some other elements of our robust bilateral defence cooperation. As a testimony to this close cooperation, India's state of the art aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, visited Sri Lanka on a good will visit last week, its maiden overseas port call since being inducted into the Indian Navy two years ago.

India has an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka and remains committed to Sri Lanka's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have always supported efforts to preserve Sri Lanka's character as a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious society in which all citizens can live in equality, safety and harmony, and prosper and fulfill their aspirations. 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 as close neighbours whose destinies are intertwined, our bilateral partnership will continue to scale even greater heights.

Long live India-Sri Lanka friendship!





Dear Friends,

Greetings on Republic Day.

Today we remember all the great women and men who contributed in the framing of our Constitution. I salute Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who as **Chairman of the Drafting Committee, provided exceptional leadership during the making of the Constitution.** Our Constitution is extensive and elaborate. It is not merely a legal document but also a social document. It does not talk of rights only but even emphasizes on duties.

Let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to uphold the ideals of our Constitution and strengthen our Republic.

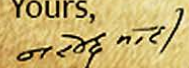
A few weeks ago, the Crop Insurance Scheme was cleared by the Cabinet. This scheme marks a paradigm shift in the agriculture sector. **For the first time, our hardworking farmers will be provided a comprehensive security cover.** Through this scheme, we are telling our farmer sisters and brothers that they are never alone and that the Government stands shoulder to shoulder with them in their endeavours.

This month also witnessed the launch of 'Start up India' movement. 'Start up India' reflects the new age India and celebrates the aspirations and talents of our youth. We envision India to be the 'Start up capital' where big ideas are conceived and take shape. **I have faith in the youth of India, who will lead this start up revolution.**

I salute our armed forces and paramilitary forces that are protecting our country, our borders, seas and skies steadfastly. India will remain forever grateful to them for their valour.

I would like to thank President Hollande for gracing the Republic Day celebrations as the Chief Guest.

Once again wishing you a Happy Republic Day.

Yours,

 Narendra Modi

Performance by Ms. Sonam Kalra & The Sufi Gospel Project for “Sangam: Festival of India in Sri Lanka 2015-2016”.



January 15, 2016 and in Colombo at New Kathiresan Hall, on January 16, 2016.

Ms. Sonam Kalra has been trained in both Indian and Western traditions of music. She has trained in Hindustani Indian classical music under Smt. Shubha Mudgal and in western music- Opera, Gospel and Jazz under Hur Chul Yung and Ashlee Clement in Singapore.

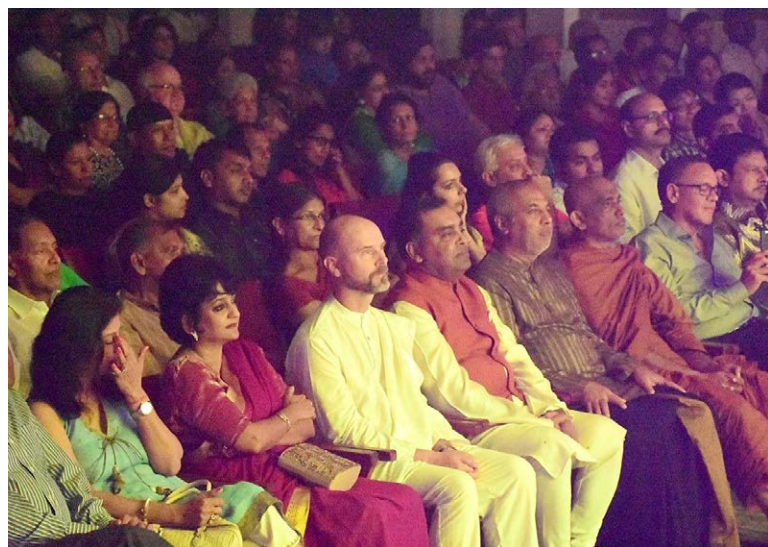
'The Sufi Gospel Project' is a unique genre of music, which blends the many voices of faith, through poetry, prayer and music to create one universal voice of faith.

Ms. Kalra's all inclusive definition of Sufism and message of Peace and Oneness has made her a popular voice at prestigious festivals and venues around London, Colombo, Singapore, Pakistan, Oman, Kuwait, Lebanon, Tunisia, Mauritius, Egypt, South Africa and the United States of America. She has performed in over 15 countries in the last two years.



Ms. Sonam Kalra and her brainchild, 'The Sufi Gospel Project,' in Galle and Colombo, as an event under 'Sangam: Festival of India in Sri Lanka 2015-2016'.

Ms. Sonam Kalra & The Sufi Gospel Project performed at the Galle Literary Festival at Hall de Galle, Galle, on



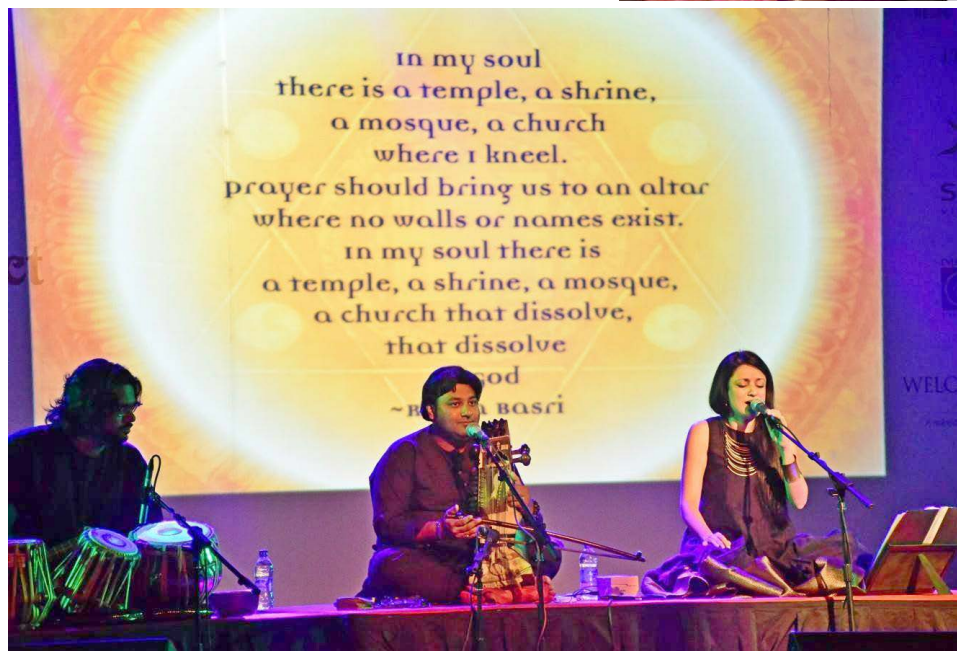
Ms. Sonam Kalra & The Sufi Gospel Project's song, "Man Manam", which featured on MTV's Coke Studio, won her rave reviews and her new song 'BOL speaks' about using the power of one's voice to make a change.

She is the recipient of the Devi Award 2014 instituted by The Indian Express newspaper for her innovation and creativity in music as well as The L'Oreal Femina Women Of Worth Award 2015 for Excellence in Music and the Performing Arts.

The performances are being co-sponsored by ITC Group of Hotels and their subsidiary, WelcomHotels Lanka Pvt. Ltd. along with a premium wine maker from India – Sula Wines.

ITC is globally acknowledged for its sustainable development initiatives, being the only company in the world, of its size, to achieve three major global environmental distinctions of being carbon positive, water positive and solid waste recycling positive.

ITC's first investment overseas is in Sri Lanka, inspired by the rich cultural ethos of the country, its history and architecture. The Project, ITC One, is located off the iconic Galle Face Green and comprises a luxury hotel and residencies.



67th Republic Day of India celebrations in Sri Lanka



Indian Aircraft Carrier Visits Colombo

January 21 - 23, 2016

India's largest naval ship, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, visited Colombo from January 21 - 23, 2016. INS Vikramaditya was accompanied by a destroyer, INS Mysore. The ships are transiting from the West Coast of India to the city of Visakhapatnam on the East Coast of India to participate in the International Fleet Review being hosted by the Indian Navy next month. Naval ships from more than 25 countries, including Sri Lanka, will be participating in this prestigious event.

The visit to Colombo by INS Vikramaditya was its maiden overseas port call after its arrival in India two years ago, and is a manifestation of the close maritime cooperation and mutual trust between India and Sri Lanka. INS Vikramaditya is the largest and newest of the two aircraft carriers operated by the Indian Navy, and is equipped with a variety of integral weapons and sensors. It operates a versatile range of high-performance aircraft, such as the MiG 29K fighter aircraft, KM 31 Airborne Early Warning helicopters, multi-role Sea King helicopters and utility Chetak helicopters. The ship is over 285 metres long and 60 metres wide, with her 23 decks scaling a height of 60 metres. The accompanying ship, INS Mysore, is a frontline missile destroyer made in India.







‘Make in India Week - 2016’

February 13-18, 2016

The Government of India organized a mega event ‘Make in India Week’ in Mumbai from February 13-18, 2016. The Make in India Week showcased the people, policies and partnerships that are driving India’s new manufacturing revolution. Set against the vibrant backdrop of India’s commercial capital – Mumbai, this week-long event offered access, insights and opportunities to connect and collaborate to Indian and global industry leaders/visionaries, academicians, central and state administrations. The focus of ‘Make in India Week’ were:

- Make in India Center would be the platform for exhibiting innovative products and manufacturing processes developed in India along with a vision to leverage design, innovation and technology in the backdrop of global manufacturing.
- Asia Business Forum would comprise of a series of seminars, CEO meets, roundtables and networking events on economic challenges, investment opportunities, design and innovation. This event would feature global visionaries and leaders from the fields of finance, industry and design.
- Hackathon would be a 24-hour marathon event where coders, engineers and designers collaborate intensively for 24 hours to come up with ideas to solve urban design problems.
- Many more events such as State Sessions, Design Conferences, Cultural & Fashion Shows and Networking Dinners would be conducted.

The event also displayed India’s potential of design, innovation and sustainability across various manufacturing sectors. The flagship event is a medium for reinforcing India’s commitment and potential to emerge as a global manufacturing hub.

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the event on 13th February.

The Make in India Week also witnessed States like Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh by organizing their respective investment seminars, showcasing their key strengths & business opportunities. All these events were in partnership with CII.

Senior Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers, Senior Union Government officials and officials from various State Government and senior industry leaders participated at the event. A number of Heads of State and Ministers led Government and Business delegations from different parts of the world attended the Summit.

‘Make in India Week’ gets Rs 15.2 lakh crore investment commitments

MUMBAI: The weeklong Make in India event here has secured investment commitments worth Rs 15.2 lakh crore, with host state Maharashtra alone accounting for Rs 8 lakh crore. Besides, it received investment enquiries worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore. “The multisectoral Make in India Week has been a great success. We’ve managed to get investment commitments to the tune of over Rs 15.2 lakh crore from the event,” DIPP Secretary Amitabh Kant told reporters at the closing press meet at the MMRDA Grounds here on February 18, 2016.

He is hopeful that the summit will create a favourable environment for investors from across the world. Out of the total investment commitments, the host state made up for more than half, at Rs 8 lakh crore, Kant said, adding that Maharashtra could become the

gateway for the rest of the country.

Out of the total commitment pie, 30 per cent have come from foreign players. "We have already opened the economy across sectors to the world. We're now showcasing,

connecting and collaborating for manufacturing in the country," Kant said, adding that the summit is not about manufacturing alone, but innovation and nurturing inventors.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had on February 13 inaugurated the maiden Make in India Week at the MMRDA Grounds at BKC in Central Mumbai.

The jamboree, for which the Modi government has reportedly spent close to Rs 100 crore in marketing alone, is part of the government's push to create jobs by increasing the share of manufacturing to GDP to

industry lobby CII coming to the fore. On the very thin participation from northeastern states, Kant said, "Every state has different core competency. I am from the Kerala cadre and I believe that Kerala is a great state for travel and tourism, but is not a great state for industrialisation."

He added: "My personal view is that northeastern states need to be developed with sustainability and innovativeness. If you force too much of industrialisation in those areas, you will spoil the natural surroundings of the region. Let's not force every state to be Maharashtra or Gujarat... that will not be correct." However, it can be noted that most of the nonNDA states barring Karnataka, which is ruled by the main Opposition Congress, and Odisha ruled by the BJD, kept away from the summit.

Over 2,500 international and 8,000 domestic



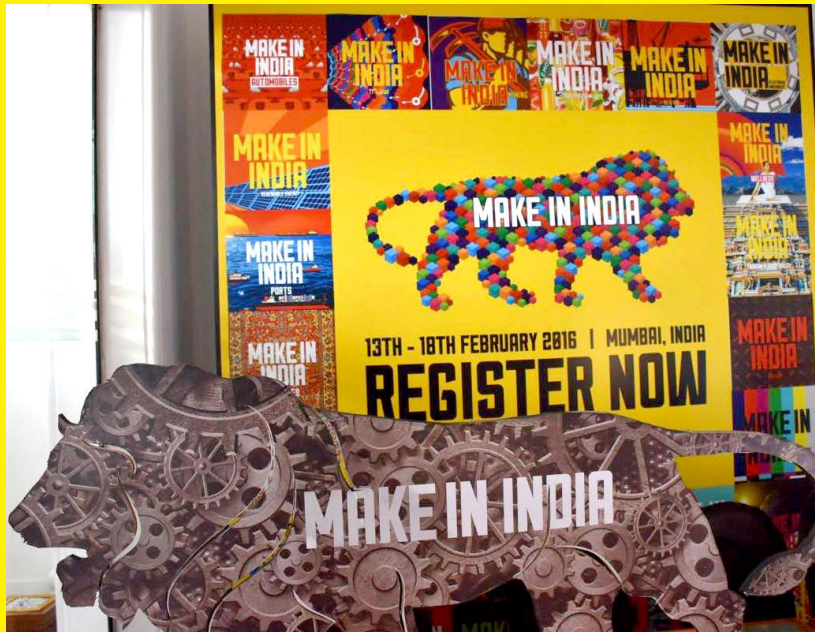
25 per cent over the next decade, from the 16.17 per cent now. The domestic economy has for long been supported by the services sector, which alone contributes more than 60 per cent of GDP.

The summit, despite a reasonably good participation from Corporate India and global companies, had its own share of shortcomings, with poor coordination among various agencies such as DIPP, PIB and

companies are claimed to have participated in the weeklong multi sectoral industrial event, apart from foreign government delegations from 68 countries and business teams from 72 nations. The opening ceremony was also attended by Prime Ministers of Sweden, Finland and Deputy Premier of Poland, besides other foreign ministers.

India invites Sri Lankan businessmen to 'Make in India'

January 29, 2015



High Commission of India organized a road-show in Colombo on January 29, 2015 to invite Sri Lankan businesses to participate in the 'Make in India Week', held in Mumbai from February 13-18, 2016. The High Commission's social media portal on 'India-Sri Lanka Business Forum' was also launched on the occasion.

Minister of State for Home (Rural), Public Health, Agriculture and Horticulture, Marketing and Tourism of Maharashtra, Hon'ble Shri Ram Shinde and the High Commissioner of India, H.E. Shri Y. K. Sinha, graced the occasion. More than 150 high level representatives from the Sri Lankan business community representing various industries including garments, shipping, auto, manufacturing, health, construction and financial services participated in the road-show.

Addressing the gathering, Minister of State, Hon'ble Shri Ram Shinde, highlighted the investment opportunities available in Maharashtra and called for enthusiastic participation from Sri Lanka in the 'Make in India Week'. High Commissioner, H.E. Shri Y.K. Sinha noted the strong and vibrant economic and commercial ties between India and Sri Lanka and highlighted that both Governments were working towards upgrading bilateral and commercial relations. He stated that the 'Make in India Week' initiative was part of the Government of India's renewed focus on invigorating the country's manufacturing sector and the landmark initiative had made a tremendous impact on the investment climate of the country. Noting that prominent Sri Lankan companies such as Brandix

and MAS Holdings were already present and 'making in India', High Commissioner called on the Sri Lankan business community to take advantage of their proximity to the fastest growing major economy in the world and appreciated that the Indo-Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President, Mr. Vish Govindasamy, was mounting a 14-member delegation to participate in the 'Make in India Week'.

As part of the event, the 'India-Sri Lanka Business Forum' social media portal of the High Commission of India was also inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State and High Commissioner.

Brandix, the biggest Sri Lankan investor in India showcased its positive experience in successfully setting up a mega manufacturing facility in India -including ease of doing business, horizontal and vertical integration as well as high productivity of the Indian workers.

The week-long 'Make in India Week,' which was launched by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, would offer access, insights and opportunities to connect and collaborate, to Indian and global industry leaders, academicians, central and state administrations. The flagship event is a medium for reinforcing India's commitment and potential to emerge as a global manufacturing hub and would also display India's potential in design, innovation and sustainability across various manufacturing sectors.

The Make in India Week included events such as the CNN-Asia Business Forum, a marathon 24-hour Hackathon and many more events such as sessions dedicated to opportunities in various states in India, design conferences, cultural and fashion shows and networking dinners, designed to make the 'Make in India Week' an immersive and enriching experience for all the participants.





High Commissioner's Remarks at the "Make in India Week" Roadshow: Colombo,

January 28, 2016.

MAKE IN INDIA WEEK
13TH-18TH FEBRUARY 2016/MUMBAI



High Commissioner's Remarks at the "Make in India Week" Roadshow: Colombo, January 28, 2016.

Shri Ram Shinde, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home (Rural), Marketing, Public Health & Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I welcome all of you to the "Make in India Week" Roadshow, which is aimed to create awareness about the Make in India Week, being organised in Mumbai from 13-16 February 2016.

A key element in strengthening bilateral ties with Sri Lanka is deepening economic and commercial relations. We hope that Sri Lankan businesses will take advantage of their proximity to the fastest growing major economy in the world. India is among the leading investors in Sri Lanka with cumulative investments of over US\$ 1 billion since 2003. India has also attracted investment from Sri Lankan firms like Brandix and MAS Holdings, among others, who have chosen to set up companies in India for manufacture and export of apparel. In recent months, the two countries have continued discussions to take the economic and

commercial engagement to the next level. A quantum leap in our economic and commercial relations can be achieved by forging linkages across the production and supply chains of the two countries.

As you are aware, the Make in India initiative was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on September 25, 2015. The initiative was part of the Government of India's renewed focus on invigorating the country's manufacturing sector. The landmark initiative has made a tremendous impact on the investment climate of the country, and is reflected in the significant growth of overall Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. The key challenge is to make India the easiest and simplest place to do business, a goal which the government is determined to achieve.

Since its launch, the Government of India has taken several reform initiatives to create an enabling environment that has provided a push to manufacturing, design, innovation and entrepreneurship. The growth in FDI has been significant after the launch of the initiative, with 48 percent increase in FDI equity inflows during the period October 2014 to April 2015, over the corresponding period last year. 2014-2015 witnessed unprecedented growth of 7.17%, to USD 40.92 billion of investment by Foreign Institutional Investors. The FDI inflow under the approval route saw growth of 87% during 2014-15 with inflow of USD 2.22 billion despite more sectors having been liberalized during this period and with more than 90% of FDI being on automatic route. These indicators showcase remarkable pace of approval being accorded by the Government and confidence of investors in resurgent India. Substantial investments have been received in areas which include

electronics, automotive, food processing, textiles and garments, renewable energy and construction. The FDI target has been set at over 30 percent.

With a growth rate of 7.5%, India has emerged as the fastest growing major economy globally and is one of the few bright spots in an economic landscape marked by an economic slowdown.

6. The Make in India initiative, in particular, aims to ensure that India is an integral part of the global supply chain. Key focus sectors such as defence, railways, construction, insurance, pension funds and medical devices have all been rapidly opened up for FDI. Government of India has also taken up a series of measures to radically improve its 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking. Fourteen services have already been integrated with an eBiz portal which will function as a single window for obtaining clearances from various government agencies.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has given further impetus to India's growth with several innovative initiatives such as "Digital India", "100 Smart Cities" and "Skill India". Most recently, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched another ambitious scheme, "Startup India, Standup India", in addition to the "Make in India" initiative. This scheme involves a 19-point action plan for start-up enterprises in India, including a self-certification scheme related to nine labour and environment laws. The scheme, inter alia, seeks to encourage those ventures that would boost employment generation and assist in wealth creation. We invite Sri Lankan investors to take advantage of these initiatives.

Make in India has already created a strong impact marked by an improved business environment and economic growth, as India is now ranked first among world's most attractive investment destinations. India's rank has jumped 12 positions in the Ease of Doing Business 2016 list by World Bank. India has also improved 16 places in the Global Competitiveness Index 2015-16. The clarion call "Come Make in India" has translated into an effective strategy and has succeeded in creating a buzz globally.

In order to sustain this momentum, Government of India is organizing a landmark event called the "Make in India Week" in Mumbai from Feb 13 - Feb 18, 2016. This week-long event will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Everyone in India is very excited about this event. It will spark a renewed sense of pride in Indian industry by showcasing the potential of design, innovation and sustainability across India's manufacturing sectors in the coming decade.

The 11 key sectors that will play a major role in the manufacturing sector in the future:

- Aerospace & Defence
- Automobiles & Automobile Components

- Chemicals & Petrochemicals
- Construction Equipment, Materials & Technology
- • Food Processing
- • Infrastructure Development
- IT & Electronics
- Industrial Equipment & Machinery
- Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- Pharmaceuticals
- Textiles

Major highlights of 'Make-in-India Week' will be

- Make in India Center: This will be the platform for exhibiting innovative products and manufacturing processes developed in India
- • CNN-Asia Business Forum which would comprise of a series of seminars, meets and round-tables and networking events on economic challenges, investment opportunities etc. The event would feature Global visionaries, and leaders from the fields of finance, industry and design.
- Urban Planning Seminar on re-imagining Mumbai: This session would focus on new impetus for a smarter e-enabled Mumbai collaborating with the best-in-class technology partners.
- Hackathon: This is a very innovative event it is a 24-hour marathon event to be held at IIT Mumbai, where coders, engineers and designers collaborate intensively for 24 hours to come up with ideas to solve urban design problems. in three important areas - Water, Transportation and Energy. Leading Institutions from the world over would come together for this.
- TIME India Awards which would recognize excellence in the world of manufacturing.

The mega event will offer foreign investors and businesses unprecedented access, insights and opportunities to showcase, connect and collaborate with young Indian entrepreneurs, industry leaders, academicians, and government officials at the central and state levels.

I am very happy to note that the Indo-Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, under its President, Mr Vish Govindswamy, is mounting a 14 member delegation for the Make in India Week. I would encourage others to consider going to Mumbai for this event. Mumbai is well connected by air to Colombo with three flights daily.

I hope your participation in the event will be fruitful and you decide to "Make in India"!!

Exim Bank of India Extends Buyer's Credit amounting to US\$ 403.01 million to the Government of Sri Lanka for projects in the Water Sector

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) on March 08, 2016 signed Buyer's Credit Agreements, under National Export Insurance Account (BC-NEIA) amounting to US\$ 403.01 million with National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) of Sri Lanka in Colombo, for financing the following three water supply projects:

- (a) Aluthgama, Mathugama and Agalawatta Integrated Water Supply Project;
- (b) Polgahawela, Pothuhera and Alawwa Integrated Water Supply Project; and
- (c) Kundesale, Haragama Water Supply Project

The agreements were signed by Mr. Yaduvendra Mathur, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), on behalf of Exim Bank and Eng. Kududoos Alahudeen Ansar, Chairman, NWSDB and Mr. Mohamed Shafeek Rajabdeen, Vice Chairman, NWSDB, Sri Lanka in the presence of Minister of City Planning and Water Supply of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Rauf Hakeem, High Commissioner of India, H.E. Shri Y.K. Sinha and senior officials of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Rauf Hakeem expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of these agreements and thanked the Government of India for financing the three water supply projects, adding that the projects would supply potable water to nearly



one million people. CMD, EXIM Bank thanked the High Commission for facilitating the conclusion of these Buyer's Credit agreements and reiterated EXIM Bank's commitment to finance further projects in Sri Lanka.

Under the Buyer's Credit portfolio, EXIM Bank has already extended credit amounting to nearly US\$ 185 million to Sri Lanka for water supply and other projects.

The Buyer's Credit Scheme of India is a unique financing mechanism that provides a safe mode of nonrecourse financing option to Indian exporters and serves as an effective market entry tool to traditional as well as new markets in developing countries, which need deferred credit on medium or long term basis.



Students and Officials get together to jointly celebrate the 'Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Day (ITEC Day) and the 'International Students' Day'

March 16, 2016,



ITEC alumni and Sri Lankan students who studied in India under various scholarship schemes of the Government of India gathered to celebrate Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Day (ITEC Day) and the 'International Students Day' at Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo. Hon'ble Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister for Special Assignments, Government of Sri Lanka, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka H.E. Shri Y. K. Sinha was also present. About 300 alumni of Indian educational and training institutions, coming from various parts of Sri Lanka, attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Dr. Sarath Amunugama, lauded role of India's founding fathers particularly the First Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, in laying the foundation of India's school and higher education system, including the renowned institutions of national importance such as the Indian Institutes of Technology. Minister Amunugama appreciated India's valuable scholarship assistance for Sri Lankan nationals and acknowledged that these educational and technical scholarships helped bridge the gap between demand and supply for such programmes in Sri Lanka, as well as in meeting the increasing aspirations of the people.

In his address, High Commissioner Shri Y. K. Sinha, thanked the Hon'ble Minister for gracing the function as the Chief Guest and appreciated the large turnout of participants who had come from all over Sri Lanka. Shri Sinha noted that India-Sri Lanka cooperation in the field of education had a long history. At present,

India offered more than 270 scholarships to Sri Lanka students to study in India and 500 scholarships under the CEWET and the Mahatma Gandhi scheme for students studying in Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner conveyed that ITEC, initiated in 1964 as India's bilateral programme of assistance, was being constantly re-designed and refocused, based on the evolving needs of India's partners, including Sri Lanka. He added that Sri Lanka was the one of topmost partner countries of ITEC, with officials going for training in over 100 courses. High Commissioner also announced that Government of India has increased the slots from 205 to 225 for Sri Lanka, from this year.

Several Sri Lankan alumni shared their experiences of studying and participating in training programmes in prestigious institutions in India, recollecting their warm memories, appreciating their useful experience and conveying the manner in which the exposure had helped them in their professional roles and duties in their country.

The ITEC programme was launched more than 50 years ago, in the early 1960s, as India's bilateral programme of assistance in the field of human resource development. Sri Lanka is one of the most important partner countries for the ITEC and the Colombo Plan scholarship programmes. 225 training slots are allocated annually for capacity-building and training in diverse areas like IT, English language, management, rural development, finance, mass communication, remote sensing, etc. The entire cost of travel, training and stay is borne by the Government of India, along with payment of a living allowance of INR 25,000/- per month, book allowance @ INR 5,000/-, study tours, including visit to places of historical importance, and medical facilities.

International Students' Day is observed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of Independent India and Founder President of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). Nearly 270 scholarships and self-financing slots are offered each year to Sri Lankan students for higher studies in India. The main categories under which the scholarships are offered are:

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme: 120 ICCR scholarships are offered annually under this

programme for higher studies in India. Students can pursue undergraduate courses in all disciplines including Engineering, Science, Business, Economics, Commerce, Humanities and Arts.

Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme: This scheme has been initiated from 2012-13, to provide 25 ICCR scholarships every year for 'Bachelor of Engineering' courses in IT, in some of the top-ranked institutes in India.

Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme: This Scheme has been added from the academic year 2012-13 wherein 50 ICCR scholarships are provided annually for Masters Degrees. This programme is expected to assist researchers including scholars employed in Sri Lankan Universities to pursue Masters degree in some world class Universities in India. Preference is given to Agriculture, Science and Engineering.

AYUSH scholarships: About 10 scholarships are offered every year for study in the field of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy, leading to undergraduate, masters and research degrees.

Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (ICCR): Under this scheme, 5 scholarships for pursuing PhD in various disciplines are offered.

ICCR Undergraduate Scholarship for Music, Dancing, and Painting: Up to 10 undergraduate scholarships are offered every year to pursue courses in Dancing, Music and Painting by the ICCR.

Subsidized Self Financed Slots(Engineering, Medicine etc.): The Government of India has reserved up to 40 seats, of which 4 to 5 slots are for Medicine, for Sri Lankan students in some of the most reputed Government institutions. Courses offered under this scheme are Undergraduate courses in Medicine (MBBS), Pharmacy (B. Pharm.) and Engineering (B.E/ B.Tech). Fee for Medicine and Pharmacy courses is

subsidized and is usually less than US\$ 1,000 per year.

Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship: The Government of India offers 150 scholarships to meritorious Sri Lankan students, six from each of the 25 districts. Students are chosen, in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka, on the basis of their performance in the GCE 'O' Level examination and on merit-cum-means criteria. Selected scholars receive financial assistance of Sri Lankan Rupees 48,000/- over a period of two years to complete their Advance Level studies.

Scholarship for Children of Estate Workers: 350 scholarships are offered annually to children of estate workers to pursue their 'A' level and Undergraduate studies. Applications are invited every year from the students in the Month of April and May. Selected students are provided a monthly stipend for a period ranging from 2-3years, till they complete their studies.

For more details on the scholarship programmes and other educational assistance, please visit the High Commission of India's website <http://www.hcicolombo.org> and for more information on the ITEC please visit <http://itec.nic.in>





India-Sri Lanka “Shilpa Kala”

March 21, 2016

As a part of Sangam: Festival of India in Sri Lanka, an exhibition of Traditional Handicrafts and Textiles entitled India-Sri Lanka “Shilpa Kala” organised by the High Commission of India, Colombo in collaboration with the Investment and Technology Promotion Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India from March 23 - 27, 2016 at Mihilaka Medura, BMICH, Colombo.

The exhibition India-Sri Lanka “Shilpa Kala” was inaugurated by the State Minister of International Trade Sujeewa Senasinghe and High Commissioner of India, Y.K. Sinha on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at Mihilaka Medura, BMICH.

Other events during the Exhibition include, a buyers-sellers meeting with Indian artisans on 24 March, and a workshop on “Marketing of Traditional Handicrafts” on 25 March.

Shilpa Kala showcased the best of traditional handicrafts from both countries. It was also

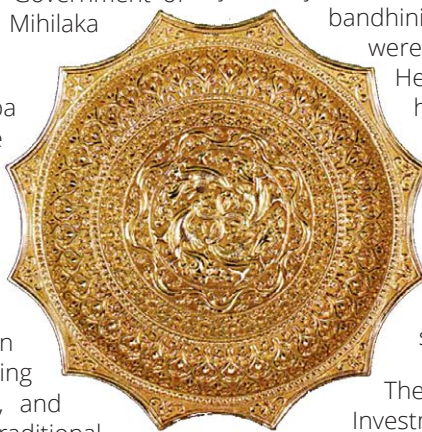
emphasised the confluence of cultures that underlie the handicrafts traditions in both India and Sri Lanka.

Handicrafts from India being showcased include Kashmiri embroidery, Saris, batik, silver and bead jewellery, silver and copperware, papier-mâché, bandhini fabrics, and wood carvings. There were demonstrations of bangle making. Henna artists were available to apply henna.

Sri Lankan artists displayed jute, wood and cane work, masks, lace, toys, ceramic and clay articles, embroidery and batik fabrics.

There were also Indian food stalls.

The Exhibition was funded by Investment and Technology Promotion Division of Ministry of External Affairs of India. Other partners were Dastkari Haat Samiti of India and Hands of Sri Lanka, National Arts and Crafts Foundation of Sri Lanka.



Automobile Industry in India



Introduction

The Indian auto industry is one of the largest in the world. The industry accounts for 7.1 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As of FY 2014-15, around 31 per cent of small cars sold globally are manufactured in India.

The Two Wheelers segment with 81 per cent market share is the leader of the Indian Automobile market owing to a growing middle class and a young population. Moreover, the growing interest of the companies in exploring the rural markets further aided the growth of the sector. The overall Passenger Vehicle (PV) segment has 13 per cent market share.

India is also a prominent auto exporter and has strong export growth expectations for the near future. In April-January 2016, exports of Commercial Vehicles registered a growth of 18.36 per cent over April-January 2015. In addition, several initiatives by the Government of India and the major automobile players in the Indian market are expected to make India a leader in the Two Wheeler (2W) and Four Wheeler (4W) market in the world by 2020.

Market Size

The auto industry produced a total 19.84 million vehicles in April-January 2016, including passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, three wheelers and two wheelers, as against 19.64 million in April-January

2015.

Domestic sales of Passenger Vehicles grew by 8.13 per cent in April-January 2016 over the same period last year. Within the Passenger Vehicles, Passenger Cars rose by 10.18 per cent, during April-January 2016 over April-January 2015.

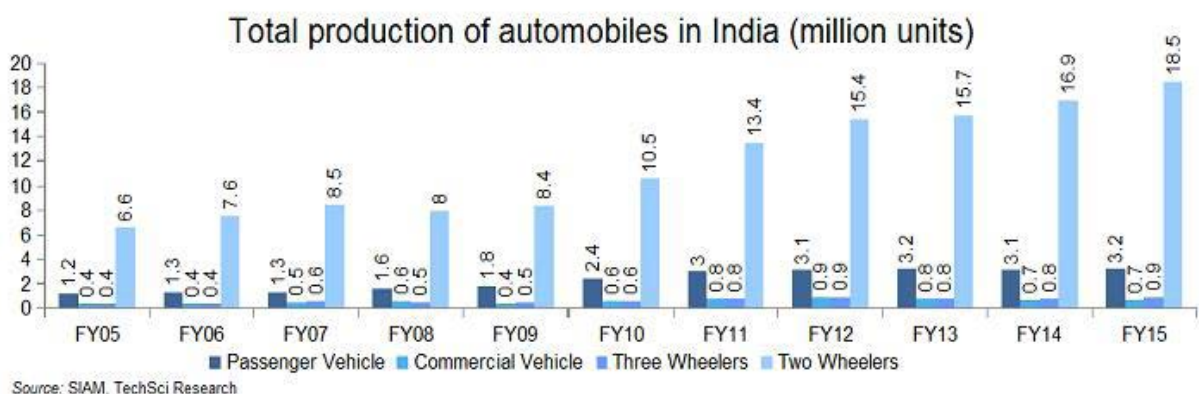
The domestic sales of Commercial Vehicles increased by 9.43 per cent in April-January 2016 over the same period last year. Sales of Medium & Heavy Commercial Vehicles (M&HCVs) increased at 30.19 per cent.

Investments

In order to keep up with the growing demand, several auto makers have started investing heavily in various segments of the industry during the last few months. The industry has attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth US\$ 14.32 billion during the period April 2000 to December 2015, according to data released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

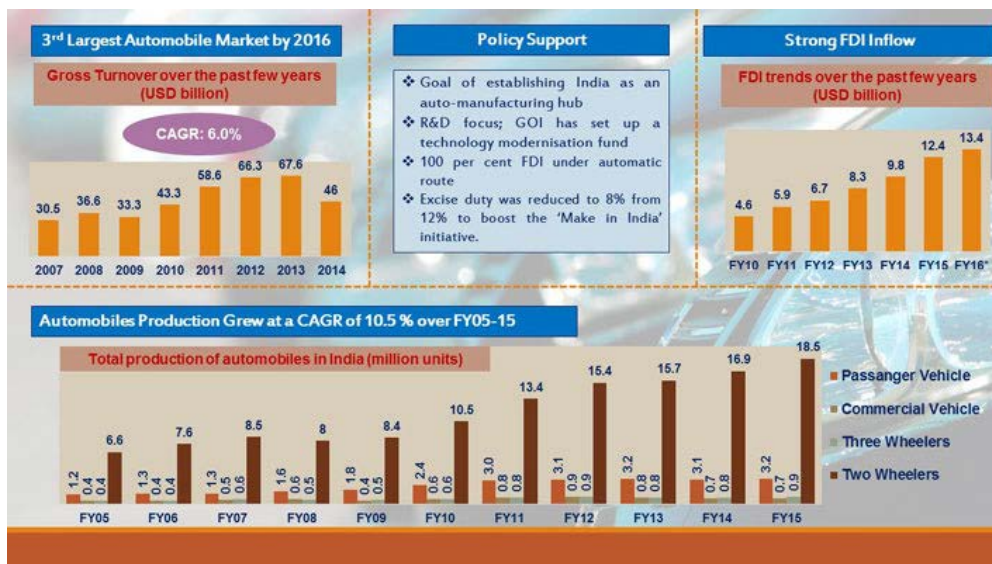
Some of the major investments and developments in the automobile sector in India are as follows:

- Japanese two-wheeler manufacturer Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) has opened its fourth and world's largest scooter plant in Gujarat, set up to initially produce 600,000 scooters per annum to be scaled up to 1.2 million scooters per annum by mid-2016.



- American car maker Ford has unveiled its iconic Ford Mustang in India and will make its debut in second quarter of FY2016 within the price band of Rs 45 lakh (US\$ 66,146) and Rs 50 lakh (US\$ 73,496) in the Indian market.
- Nissan Motor Co. Ltd is in discussion with Government of India to bring electric and hybrid technologies to India as the government plans to reduce air pollution caused by vehicles.
- Global auto major Ford plans to manufacture in India two families of engines by 2017, a 2.2 litre diesel engine codenamed Panther, and a 1.2 litre petrol engine codenamed Dragon, which are expected to power 270,000 Ford vehicles globally.
- The world's largest air bag suppliers Autoliv Inc, Takata Corp, TRW Automotive Inc and Toyoda Gosei Co are setting up plants and increasing capacity in India.
- General Motors plans to invest US\$ 1 billion in India by 2020, mainly to increase the capacity at the Talegaon plant in Maharashtra from 130,000 units a year to 220,000 by 2025.
- US-based car maker Chrysler has planned to invest Rs 3,500 crore (US\$ 513.5 million) in Maharashtra, to manufacture Jeep Grand Cherokee model.
- Mercedes Benz has decided to manufacture the GLA entry SUV in India. The company has doubled its India assembly capacity to 20,000 units per annum.
- Germany-based luxury car maker Bayerische Motoren Werke AG's (BMW) local unit has announced to procure components from seven India-based auto parts makers.
- Mahindra Two Wheelers Limited (MTWL) acquired 51 per cent shares in France-based Peugeot Motorcycles (PMTIC).





Government Initiatives

The Government of India encourages foreign investment in the automobile sector and allows 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route.

Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government of India are:

- Mr Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Shipping has announced plans to set up a separate independent Department for Transport, comprising of experts from the automobile sector to resolve issues such as those related to fuel technology, motor body specifications and fuel emissions, apart from exports.
- Government of India aims to make automobiles manufacturing the main driver of 'Make in India' initiative, as it expects passenger vehicles market to triple to 9.4 million units by 2026, as highlighted in the Auto Mission Plan (AMP) 2016-26.
- In the Union budget of 2015-16, the Government has announced to provide credit of Rs 850,000 crore (US\$ 124.71 billion) to farmers, which is expected to boost the tractors segment sales.
- The Government plans to promote eco-friendly cars in the country i.e. CNG based vehicle, hybrid





vehicle, and electric vehicle and also made mandatory of 5 per cent ethanol blending in petrol.

- The government has formulated a Scheme for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in India, under the National Electric Mobility Mission 2020 to encourage the progressive induction of reliable, affordable and efficient electric and hybrid vehicles in the country.
- The Automobile Mission Plan (AMP) for the period 2006–2016, designed by the government is aimed at accelerating and sustaining growth in this sector. Also, the well-established Regulatory Framework under the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, plays a part in providing a boost to this sector.

Road Ahead

India's automotive industry is one of the most competitive in the world. It does not cover 100 per cent of technology or components required to make a car but it is giving a good 97 per cent, as highlighted by Mr Vicent Cobee, Corporate Vice-President, Nissan

Motor's Datsun.

Leading auto maker Maruti Suzuki expects Indian passenger car market to reach four million units by 2020, up from 1.97 million units in 2014-15.

The Indian automotive sector has the potential to generate up to US\$ 300 billion in annual revenue by 2026, create 65 million additional jobs and contribute over 12 per cent to India's Gross Domestic Product, as per the Automotive Mission Plan 2016-26 prepared jointly by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and government.



The automobile industry in India is expected to be the world's third largest by 2016, with the country currently being the world's second largest two-wheeler manufacturer. Two-wheeler production is projected to rise from 18.5 million in FY15 to 34 million by FY20. Furthermore, passenger vehicle production is expected to increase to 10 million in FY20 from 3.2 million in FY15.

Automobile exports grew at a CAGR of 14.65 per cent during 2010-15. Passenger Vehicles, Commercial Vehicles, Three Wheelers and Two Wheelers grew by 6.89 per cent, 13.77 per cent, 18.69 per cent and 16.60 per cent CAGR during 2010-15. Two wheelers accounted for the largest share of exports at 69.4 per cent in FY15. Passenger vehicles comprised a sizeable 16.7 per cent of overall exports. Exports of three wheeler vehicles registered around 11.1 per cent share in exports in FY15.

The government aims to develop India as a global manufacturing as well as a research and development (R&D) hub. It has set up National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) centres as well as a National Automotive Board to act as facilitator between the government and the industry.

Alternative fuel has the potential to provide for the country's energy demand in the auto sector as the CNG distribution network in India is expected to rise to 250 cities in 2018 from 125 cities in 2014. Also, the luxury car market could register high growth and is expected to reach 150,000 units by 2020.

BUDGET

MAKE IN INDIA TAX IT FDI DIGITAL INDIA MSME 2016

Union Budget 2016-17

February 29, 2016

The Union Budget for 2016-17 has been announced by Mr Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Finance, Government of India, in Parliament on February 29, 2016

Highlights of Union Budget 2016-17

Overview of the Economy and fiscal deficit

- Economic growth has accelerated to 7.6 per cent in 2015-16.
- India hailed as a 'bright spot' amidst a slowing global economy by IMF
- CPI inflation has come down to 5.4 per cent.
- Current Account deficit projected to be 1.4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the end of this fiscal year.
- Foreign exchange reserves touched highest ever level of about US\$ 350 billion.
- Government has retained the fiscal deficit target for 2015-16 and 2016-17 at 3.9 per cent and 3.5 per cent of GDP respectively.
- Revenue Deficit target from 2.8 per cent to 2.5 per cent in RE 2015-16.

Budget Estimates 2016-17

- Total receipts (excluding Borrowings and other liabilities) estimated at Rs 14.44 lakh crore (US\$ 211 billion), a growth of 15.5 per cent.
- Gross revenue receipts estimated at Rs 13.77 lakh crore (US\$ 201 billion) which comprise of Rs 10.54 lakh crore (US\$ 154 billion) of tax revenues and Rs 3.22 lakh crore (US\$ 47 billion) of non-tax revenues.
- Total expenditure estimated at Rs 19.78 lakh crore

(US\$ 289 billion), an increase of 10.8 per cent over previous year.

- Non-plan expenditure estimated to increase by 9.1 per cent to reach Rs 14.28 lakh crore (US\$ 208.6 billion).
- Plan expenditure pegged at Rs 5.50 lakh crore (US\$ 80.3 billion), 15.3 per cent increase over previous year.
- Plan / Non-Plan classification to be done away with from 2017-18. Every new scheme sanctioned to have a sunset date and an outcome review.

Financial Performance 2015-16

Receipts

- Total receipts (excluding Borrowings and other liabilities) stood at Rs 12.50 lakh crore (US\$ 182.6 billion) in Revised Estimates (RE), which is more than the Budgeted Estimates (BE) of Rs 12.21 lakh crore (US\$ 178.3 billion) by Rs 28,473 crore (US\$ 4.16 billion).
- Gross revenue receipts were Rs 12.06 lakh crore (US\$ 176 billion) in RE, which were higher than BE by Rs 64,509 crore (US\$ 9.42 billion) owing to 16.6 per cent increase of Non-tax revenues in RE.
- Tax revenues stood at Rs 9.47 lakh crore (US\$ 138.3 billion) in RE, which were more than the BE of Rs 9.19 lakh crore (US\$ 134.2 billion) by Rs 27,666 crore (US\$ 4.04 billion).
- There was a substantial increase of 23.6 per cent in collection of Union Excise Duties which stood at Rs 2.84 lakh crore (US\$ 41.5 billion) in RE, an increase of Rs 54,334 crore (US\$ 8 billion) over the BE of Rs 2.29 lakh crore (US\$ 33.5 billion).

Expenditure

- Total expenditure was Rs 17.85 lakh crore (US\$ 260.7 billion) in RE, which exceeded the BE of Rs

17.77 lakh crore (US\$ 259.6 billion) by Rs 7,914 crore (US\$ 1.16 billion).

- Non-plan expenditure in RE was in line with BE. However, Plan expenditure exceeded the BE by Rs 11,920 crore (US\$ 1.74 billion), to be revised to Rs 4.77 lakh crore (US\$ 69.7 billion), an increase of 2.6 per cent.
- Expense on Defence sector was lower by 9 per cent or Rs 22,091 crore (US\$ 3.22 billion) in RE, while that on Subsidies and Pensions was higher by 5.7 per cent and 8.1 per cent respectively.

Agriculture and farmers welfare- Allocation: Rs 35,984 crore (US\$ 5.25 billion)

- 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' to be implemented in mission mode. 2.85 million hectares will be brought under irrigation.
- A dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with an initial corpus of about Rs 20,000 crore (US\$ 2.9 billion).
- Programme for sustainable management of ground water resources with an estimated cost of Rs 6,000 crore (US\$ 877 million) will be implemented through multilateral funding.
- Allocation under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) increased to Rs 19,000 crore (US\$ 2.7 billion).
- A provision of Rs 15,000 crore (US\$ 2.2 billion) has been made towards interest subvention to reduce the burden of loan repayment on farmers.
- Allocation under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana is Rs 5,500 crore (US\$ 802 million).
- The budget allocated Rs 850 crore (US\$ 124.2 million) for four dairy projects.

Rural sector- Allocation: Rs 87,756 crore (US\$ 12.8 billion)

- Rs 287,000 crore (US\$ 41.9) will be given as Grant-in-Aid to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- A sum of Rs 38,500 crore (US\$ 5.6 billion) allocated for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- 300 Rurban Clusters will be developed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission.
- A 100 per cent village electrification target set by May 01, 2018.

Social sector including healthcare- Allocation: Rs 151,581 crore (US\$ 22.04 billion)

- Rs 2,000 crore (US\$ 293 million) allocated for initial cost of providing LPG connections to below poverty line (BPL) families.
- New health protection scheme will provide health cover up to Rs 1 lakh (US\$ 1,454) per family. For senior citizens an additional top-up package up to Rs 30,000 (US\$ 436) will be provided.
- 3,000 stores under Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana to be opened during 2016-17.

Education, skills and job creation

- 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened.
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to increasing focus on quality of education
- Higher Education Financing Agency to be set-up with initial capital base of Rs 1,000 crore (US\$ 145).

Skill development- Allocation: Rs 1,804 crore (US\$ 263 million)

- 500 Multi Skill Training Institutes to be setup.
- National Board for Skill Development Certification to be setup in partnership with the industry and academia.
- Entrepreneurship education and training through massive open online courses.

Job Creation

- Government of India will pay contribution of 8.33 per cent for of all new employees enrolling in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the first three years of their employment. Budget provision of Rs 1,000 crore (US\$ 146 million) for this scheme.
- Deduction under Section 80JJAA of the Income Tax Act will be available to all assesses who are subject to statutory audit under the Act.
- 100 Model Career Centres to operational by the end of 2016-17 under National Career Service.

Infrastructure and investment- Allocation: Rs 221,246 crore (US\$ 32.3 billion)

- Total investment in the road sector would be Rs 97,000 crore (US\$ 14.1 billion) during 2016-17.
- To approve nearly 10,000 kms of National Highways in 2016-17.
- Reforms in foreign direct investment (FDI) policy in the areas of Insurance and Pension, Asset Reconstruction Companies, Stock Exchanges.
- 100 per cent FDI to be allowed through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) route in marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India.

Financial sector reforms

- A comprehensive code on resolution of financial firms to be introduced.
- Amendments in the SARFAESI Act 2002 to enable the sponsor of an asset reconstruction company (ARC) to hold up to 100 per cent stake in the ARC and permit non institutional investors to invest in securitisation receipts.
- Allocation of Rs 25,000 crore (US\$ 3.6 billion) towards recapitalisation of public sector banks.
- Target of amount sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana increased to Rs 180,000 crore (US\$ 26.3 billion).

Governance and ease of doing business

- A task force has been constituted for rationalisation of human resources in various Ministries.
- Amendments in Companies Act to improve enabling environment for start-ups.
- Price Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of Rs 900 crore (US\$ 131.5 million) to help maintain stable prices of pulses.
- “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” programme will be launched to link States and Districts in an annual programme that connects people through exchanges in areas of language, trade, culture, travel and tourism.

Relief to small tax payers

- Ceiling of tax rebate under section 87A to be raised from Rs 2,000 (US\$ 29.2) to Rs 5,000 (US\$ 73) to lessen tax burden on individuals with income up to Rs 5 lakhs (US\$ 7,270).
- Limit of deduction of rent paid under section 80GG to be increased from Rs 24,000 (US\$ 350.8) per annum to Rs 60,000 (US\$ 876.6), to provide relief to those who live in rented houses.

Boost employment and growth

- Increase the turnover limit under Presumptive taxation scheme under section 44AD of the Income Tax Act to Rs 2 crore (US\$ 0.3 million) to boost the MSME sector.
- Extend the presumptive taxation scheme with profit deemed to be 50 per cent to professionals with gross receipts up to 50 lakh (US\$.015 million).
- **Phasing out deduction under Income Tax**
 - Accelerated depreciation limited to maximum 40 per cent from April 01, 2017.
 - Benefit of deductions for Research would be limited to 150 per cent from April 01, 2017 and 100 per cent from April 01, 2020.
 - Benefit of section 10AA to new Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units will be available to those units which commence activity before March 31, 2020.

- Weighted deduction under section 35CCD for skill development will continue up to April 01, 2020.

Corporate Tax rate proposals

- Manufacturing companies incorporated on or after March 01, 2016 to be given an option to be taxed at 25 per cent plus surcharge and cess if they do not claim profit linked or investment linked deductions and do not avail of investment allowance and accelerated depreciation
- Lower the corporate tax rate for the next financial year for companies with turnover not exceeding Rs 5 crore (US\$ 0.73 million), in the financial year ending March 2015, to 29 per cent plus surcharge and cess.
- One hundred per cent deduction of profits for 3 out of 5 years for start-ups setup during April, 2016 to March, 2019.
- Period for getting benefit of long term capital gain regime in case of unlisted companies is proposed to be reduced from three to two years.
- Commitment to implement General Anti Avoidance Rules (GAAR) from April 01, 2017.
- Exemption of service tax on services provided under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

Make in India

- Changes in customs and excise duty rates on certain inputs to reduce costs and improve competitiveness of domestic industry in sectors like Information technology hardware, capital goods, defence production, textiles, mineral fuels & mineral oils, chemicals & petrochemicals, paper, paperboard & newsprint, Maintenance repair and overhauling [MRO] of aircrafts and ship repair.

Moving towards a pensioned society

- Withdrawal up to 40 per cent of the corpus at the time of retirement to be tax exempt in the case of National Pension Scheme (NPS) and in case of superannuation funds and recognised provident funds, including EPF it will apply to corpus created out of contributions made on or from 1st April, 2016.
- Annuity fund which goes to legal heir will not be taxable.
- Contribution of employer in recognised Provident and Superannuation Fund to be limited to Rs 1.5 lakh (US\$ 2,192) per annum for taking tax benefit.
- Service tax on Single premium Annuity (Insurance) Policies to be reduced from 3.5 per cent to 1.4 per cent of the premium paid in certain cases.

Promoting affordable housing

- 100 per cent deduction for profits to an

undertaking in housing project for flats upto 30 square metres in four metro cities and 60 square metres in other cities, approved during June 2016 to March 2019 and completed in three years. Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) to apply.

- Deduction for additional interest of Rs 50,000 (US\$ 730) per annum for loans up to Rs 35 lakh (US\$ 51,158) sanctioned in FY 2016-17 for first time home buyers, where house cost does not exceed Rs 50 lakh (US\$ 73,082).
- Extend excise duty exemption, presently available to concrete mix manufactured at site for use in construction work to ready mix concrete.

Resource mobilisation for agriculture, rural economy and clean environment

- Additional tax at the rate of 10 per cent of gross amount of dividend will be payable by the recipients receiving dividend in excess of Rs 10 lakh (US\$ 14,616) per annum.
- Surcharge to be raised from 12 per cent to 15 per cent on persons, other than companies, firms and cooperative societies having income above Rs 1 crore (US\$ 0.015).
- Tax to be deducted at source at the rate of 1 per cent on purchase of luxury cars exceeding value of Rs 10 lakh (US\$ 14,616) and purchase of goods and services in cash exceeding Rs 2 lakh (US\$ 2,923)
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) in case of 'Options' is proposed to be increased from 0.017 per cent to 0.05 per cent.
- Excise duties on various tobacco products other than beedi raised by about 10-15 per cent.
- Assignment of right to use the spectrum and its transfer has been deducted as a service leviable to service tax and not sale of intangible goods.

Providing certainty in taxation

- Committed to providing a stable and predictable taxation regime and reduce black money.
- Domestic taxpayers can declare undisclosed income or such income represented in the form of any asset by paying tax at 30 per cent, and surcharge at 7.5 per cent and penalty at 7.5 per cent, which is a total of 45 per cent of the undisclosed income and they will have immunity from prosecution.
- New Dispute Resolution Scheme to be introduced. No penalty in respect of cases with disputed tax up to Rs 10 lakh (US\$ 14,616). Cases with disputed tax exceeding Rs 10 lakh (US\$ 14,616) to be subjected to 25 per cent of the minimum of the imposable penalty.
- Penalty rates to be 50 per cent of tax in case of underreporting of income and 200 per cent of tax

where there is misreporting of facts.

Simplification and rationalisation of taxes

- 13 cesses, levied by various ministries in which revenue collection is less than Rs 50 crore in a year to be abolished
- Additional options to banking companies and financial institutions, including NBFCs, for reversal of input tax credits with respect to non-taxable services.
- Customs Act to provide for deferred payment of customs duties for importers and exporters with proven track record.

Technology for accountability

- Expansion in the scope of e-assessments to all assesses in seven megacities in the coming years.
- Interest at the rate of 9 per cent per annum against normal rate of 6 per cent per annum for delay in giving effect to Appellate order beyond 90 days.
- 'e-Sahyog' to be expanded to reduce compliance cost, especially for small taxpayers.

Roadmap and Priorities

- 'Transform India' to have a significant impact on economy and lives of people.
- **Focus on Vulnerable sections through:**
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
 - New health insurance scheme to protect against hospitalisation expenditure
 - Facility of cooking gas connection for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families
- Continue with the ongoing reform programme and ensure passage of the Goods and Service Tax bill and Insolvency and Bankruptcy law
- **Undertake important reforms by:**
 - giving a statutory backing to AADHAR platform to ensure benefits reach the deserving
 - freeing the transport sector from constraints and restrictions
 - incentivising gas discovery and exploration by providing calibrated marketing freedom
 - enactment of a comprehensive law to deal with resolution of financial firms
 - provide legal framework for dispute resolution and re-negotiations in PPP projects and public utility contracts
 - undertake important banking sector reforms and public listing of general insurance companies undertake significant changes in FDI policy

Startup India

Empowering Startups for Growth

www.ibef.org/ - Mar, 2016

Startup India is a Government of India flagship initiative to build Startups and nurture innovation. Through this initiative, the Government plans to empower Startup ventures to boost entrepreneurship, economic growth and employment across India.

The Government's Action Plan will help accelerate the growth of Startups throughout India, across all important sectors – in Tier 1, 2 and 3 cities, including semi-urban and rural areas – and includes promoting entrepreneurship among SCs/STs and women communities.

The 19-point Action Plan, organized by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), focuses both on restricting hindrances and promoting faster growth by way of:

- Simplification and Handholding
- Funding Support and Incentives
- Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation

Why Startup India

Startup India is about creating prosperity in India. Many enterprising people who dream of starting their own business lack the resources to do so. As a result, their ideas, talent and capabilities remain untapped – and the country loses out on wealth creation, economic growth and employment.

4. Legal Support, Fast Tracking & 80% reduction in patent registration fee
5. Relaxed Norms of Public Procurement
6. Easier & Faster Exit
7. Funding Support via a Fund of Funds corpus of INR 10,000 crore
8. Credit Guarantee Funding
9. Tax Exemption on Capital gains
10. 3-Year Income Tax Exemption
11. Tax Exemption on Investments above Fair Market Value (FMV)
12. Annual Startup Fests (national & international)
13. Launch of World-class Innovation Hubs under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
14. Set up of country-wide Incubator Network
15. Innovation Centres to augment Incubation and R&D
16. Research Parks to propel innovation
17. Promote Entrepreneurship in Biotechnology
18. Innovation Focused Programs for Students
19. Annual Incubator Grand Challenge

- Download Startup India's 19-point Action Plan.

“In the words of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi:

Startup India is a revolutionary scheme that has been started to help the people who wish to start their own business. These people have ideas and capability, so the government will give them support to make sure they can implement their ideas and grow. Success of this scheme will eventually make India, a better economy and a strong nation.

Startup India will help boost entrepreneurship and economic development – by ensuring that people who have the potential to innovate and start their own business are encouraged – with proactive support and incentives at multiple levels.

Startup India's 19-Point Action Plan

1. Self-certification Compliance
2. Single Point of Contact via Startup India Hub
3. Simplifying Processes with Mobile App and

Launch of Startup India Action Plan

The Startup India Action Plan was unveiled by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16th January, 2016 to highlight several initiatives and schemes proposed by the Government of India to build a strong eco-system to nurture innovation and empower Startups across India.

The 19-point Action Plan envisages several incubation centres, easier patent filing, tax exemptions, ease of

setting-up of business, a INR 10,000 crore corpus fund, a faster exit mechanism, among others.

Over 1500 CEOs, Startup founders and investors who attended the Startup India launch included:

- Mr. Masayoshi Son, CEO of SoftBank
- Mr. Travis Kalanick, founder of Uber
- Mr. Adam Nuemann, CEO of WeWork
- Mr. Sachin Bansal, founder of Flipkart
- Mr. Kunal Bahl, founder of Snapdeal
- Mr. Bhavish Aggarwal, founder of Ola
- Mr. Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder of Paytm

Support for Startup India

Startup India campaign has received worldwide support for its attempt to bring Startups to the forefront of India's growth story. It allows entrepreneurs to focus on their core business (instead of time-delaying regulatory compliances) – while empowering them with a strong eco-system to support their creativity and growth.

Definition of a Startup (for the purpose of Government Schemes only)

A Startup means an entity:

- incorporated or registered in India not prior to five years
- with an annual turnover not exceeding INR 25 crore in any preceding financial year
- working towards innovation, development, deployment or commercialization of new products, processes or services driven by technology or intellectual property

The entity shall cease to be a Startup if:

- it is formed by splitting up, or reconstruction, of a business already in existence
- its turnover for the previous financial years has exceeded INR 25 crore
- it has completed 5 years from the date of incorporation/registration

Further, the Startup shall be eligible for tax benefits only after it has obtained certification

from the Inter-Ministerial Board, set up for such purpose.

Definition of Terms

- Entity: Private Limited Company (under The Companies Act, 2013) or a Registered Partnership Firm (under The Indian Partnership Act, 1932) or

Limited Liability Partnership (under The Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008).

- Identification of businesses covered under the definition: A business is covered under the definition if it aims to develop and commercialize:
 - a new product or service or process; or
 - a significantly improved existing product or service or process, that will create or add value for customers or workflow.

The mere act of developing

- products or services or processes which do not have potential for commercialization; or
- undifferentiated products or services or processes; or
- products or services or processes with no or limited incremental value for customers or workflow would not be covered under this definition.
- In order for a "Startup" to be considered eligible, the Startup should
 - be supported by a recommendation (with regard to innovative nature of business), in a format specified by DIPP, from an Incubator established in a post-graduate college in India; or
 - be supported by an incubator which is funded (in relation to the project) from Gol as part of any specified scheme to promote innovation; or
 - be supported by a recommendation (with regard to innovative nature of business), in a format specified by DIPP, from an Incubator recognized by Gol; or
 - be funded by an Incubation Fund/Angel Fund/Private Equity Fund/Accelerator/Angel Network duly registered with SEBI* that endorses innovative nature of the business; or
 - be funded by Gol as part of any specified scheme to promote innovation; or
- have a patent granted by the Indian Patent and Trademark Office
- in areas affiliated with the nature of business being promoted
- * DIPP may publish a 'negative' list of funds which are not eligible for this initiative.
- Turnover: As defined under The Companies Act, 2013
- Inter-Ministerial Board: An Inter-Ministerial Board setup by DIPP to validate the innovative

nature of the business for granting tax related benefits Approval from the Inter-Ministerial Board shall not in any manner, limit or absolve the entity(ies) from any liability incurred in case of any misrepresentation/ fraud arising from submission of such application and/ or supporting such application.

<http://startupindia.gov.in>

India: Transforming the digital payment ecosystem

March 02, 2016



The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for introduction of steps for promotion of payments through cards and digital means. The essential features of the

proposals for promotion of payments through cards and digital means include steps for withdrawal of surcharge/service charge/convenience fee on card/digital payments and promotion of mobile banking to improve the payments ecosystem in the country. It can be expected that the promotion of payments through cards and digital means will be instrumental in reducing tax avoidance, migration of Government payments and collections to cashless mode and shifting payment ecosystem from cash dominated to non-cash/less cash payments.

In another significant development, the Government of India has recently extended the e-Tourist Visa facility to 37 more countries. The total count of countries under the scheme stands at 150. Since the launch of the scheme in November 2014, more than 7.50 lakh visas have been issued under the scheme. At present on an average 3,500 e-Tourist Visas are being granted daily to foreign nationals.

India: The Renewable Hub in the making

March 15, 2016



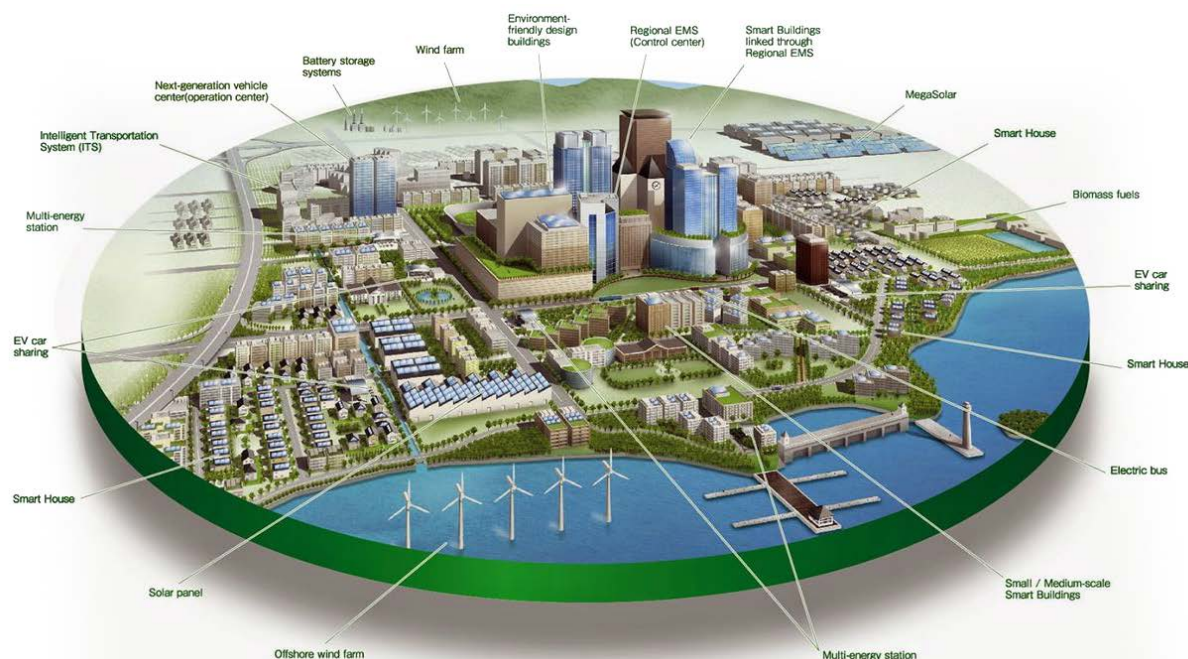
Cover letter: India is expected to add close to 4,000

megawatt (MW) of solar power in 2016, much higher than 2,133 MW it added in 2015, according to a recent report. The Mercom Capital report further added that the solar installations in India increased by 142 per cent in 2015 and is expected to record strong growth in 2016 and 2017. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi revised India's solar power target from 20,000 MW to 100,000 MW by 2022 in June 2015. Industry watchers expect a lot of positive developments in the domestic renewable energy sector in 2016 and 2017.

In another significant development, the Rajya Sabha has approved The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013. The legislation is expected to protect consumer interest, ensure efficiency in all property related transactions, improve accountability of developers, boost transparency and attract more investments to the sector. Real estate is the second largest employer in the country, after agriculture, and contributes 9 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP). The Bill is expected to increase the trust and confidence of the Indian consumer.

India: Building Smart Cities

IBEF: February 01, 2016



The Government of India has recently announced the 20 winners of the Smart City Challenge competition for financing during this financial year. Smart City Mission marks a paradigm shift towards urban development in the country with a total investment of Rs 50,802 crore (US\$ 7.5 billion) over five years with Public Private Partnership (PPP) being a major vehicle of resource mobilisation. Integrated urban planning, land use planning, transport, urban design and architecture in a holistic manner are the few key advantages of the Smart City Mission.

In another significant development, the Indian food retail market is expected to cross Rs 61 lakh crore (US\$ 900 billion) by 2020, according to the India Food Report 2016. The market size in the food retail industry stood at Rs 25 lakh crore (US\$ 369 billion) in 2014, which accounts for close to 65 per cent of India's total retail market pie. With India already being the largest consumer is segments like dairy, pulses, sugar and spices, the food retail market in India can be expected to continue its growth run.

India: US\$ 1 trillion investment in power sector by 2030

IBEF: February 17, 2016

Indian power sector is expected to require US\$ 1 trillion investment by 2030, with 40 per cent of power gear supplies estimated to be manufactured domestically and creation of 10 lakh jobs. With the Government of India focusing on the power sector with structural reforms and an integrated outlook for the energy sector, the sector is well poised to open up new growth opportunities for both domestic and foreign companies.

In another significant announcement, close to 93 per

cent of Indian retailers are expected to adopt new technologies like the digital wallet giving users an option to shop without carrying cash, according to a recently released report. Customers are increasingly using digital platforms across the purchase life cycle with about 55 per cent consumers using online mediums to discover products, the report further added. Technologies like mobile store apps and visual search already rank high on the priority list of Indian retailers and are expected to play an important role going forward.

India: Retail sector to reach US\$ 1.2 trillion by 2020

IBEF: January 19, 2016

India's retail sector is expected to double to US\$ 1.1-1.2 trillion by 2020 from the current US\$ 630 billion, according to a recent report. Factors like income growth, rapid urbanisation and more nuclear families leading to higher per capita consumption are expected to play an important role in the strong growth projected for the Indian retail sector. The joint report from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and The Boston Consulting Group further said that the overall growth will be driven by key demographic changes. By 2020, there will be a 70 per cent rise in the income level and 100 million more youths will enter the workforce.

In another significant development, India's domestic airlines carried 81.09 million passengers in calendar 2015, as against 67.38 million in the previous year, registering a growth of 20.34 per cent. Falling fares and more flights are some of the key reasons attributed to the strong growth in the said period. During December 2015, domestic airlines registered a strong 19.71 per cent growth compared to the corresponding month in the previous year, according to data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

India's electric vehicle sales grow 37.5% to 22,000 units

Livemint: April 05, 2016

New Delhi: Sales of electric vehicles in India grew by 37.5% to 22,000 units in the year ended 31 March, according to industry lobby group Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV).

Of these, only 2,000 units were four-wheelers. The lobby group said that industry sold 16,000 units in 2014-15.

At these levels, India remains miles away from its objective of selling 6 million electric vehicles by 2020, a vision stated by the government through the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 and FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles).

"It would be tough to achieve (the target) unless ground level infrastructural deficiencies were removed and credit facilities eased for buying green vehicles," SMEV said in a statement.

However, SMEV took solace from increased awareness among commuters about electric vehicles "and the fact that people are seeing a good value proposition in EVs," said Sohinder Gill, director of corporate affairs at SMEV.

"Intentions at policy level abound but government at every level, be it Centre, State or Municipal, now has to go the extra mile to facilitate mass migration to green mobility," he said.

Lack of basic infrastructure facilities like charging stations and difficulties in availing credit from banks for buying such vehicles are impediments to the growth of the sector.



www.ibef.org



India close to achieving 8% GDP growth: Panagariya

April 05, 2016

New Delhi: Banking reforms and job creation are the two biggest current challenges, said Arvind Panagariya, vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog.

The country is close to achieving eight per cent annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP), on the back of good infrastructure development, he added.

"The advance estimate for 2015-16 pegs GDP growth at 7.6 per cent and the fourth quarter is expected to clock 7.8 per cent, quite close to the target of eight per cent," he said, at the annual session of CII.

Amitabh Kant, chief executive officer at the government's think tank, said there was a need for more reliance on the domestic market.

"We're creating jobs but there is gross under-employment. To counter this, we need big manufacturing firms," said Panagariya. Wages were rising in China and India needs to capitalise on this. "The Centre is working on this through its skill development initiatives and in two years, the numbers of seats in industrial training institutes has risen by 20 per cent," he added.

On the government's retreat regarding a tax on the employees provident fund, he said taking half a step backward after taking two-three steps forward was okay as long as one was walking. "Reforms will happen under the present government but we need to be patient," he said.

Kant felt India needed to look at manufacturing for export. "The challenge is to look at the right size and scale, and think of global markets to drive growth, as was done by China."

Jamshyd N Godrej, chairman, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing, said the two biggest deficits the country needed to bridge were in physical and social infrastructure.



India's sixth navigation satellite, IRNSS-1F, placed in orbit

March 10, 2016,

ISRO on March 10, 2016, successfully put into orbit India's sixth dedicated navigation satellite, the IRNSS-1F, from here. The satellite was launched on-board India's workhorse launch vehicle, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

The Independent Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India and the region extending up to 1,500 km from the border.

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-32) lifted off at 4.01 p.m. with the payload. The launch was revised by one minute to 4.01 p.m. "for collision avoidance as per the space debris studies," according to ISRO.

The IRNSS-1F carrying two payloads — the navigation payload and ranging payload — was put into orbit 20 minutes after take-off from the second

launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

"It was a precise launch," A.S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, ISRO said.

"It [PSLV] has taken the satellite into the right orbit. We have only one more satellite in this constellation to complete our sequence of seven satellites for the regional navigation system which we expect to do sometime next month. The signals will be available in one month," he said.

The satellite had a lift-off mass of 1,425 kg and was powered by two solar panels generating 1660 W and one Lithium-ion battery of 90 Ampere-hour capacity.

With this launch, India inches closer to having its own navigation system (like a GPS).

The navigation payload of IRNSS-1F will transmit navigation service signals and will operate in the L5 band and S

band. The ranging payload consists of a C-band transponder that facilitates accurate determination of the range of the satellites.

"Successful launch of IRNSS-1F is an accomplishment we all take immense pride in. I salute the hard work of our scientists and ISRO," Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said in a tweet. President Pranab Mukherjee also congratulated the scientists.

ISRO is now preparing to launch the last satellite in the IRNSS series, the IRNSS-1G, and work has already begun on it.

"We are going to start the next mission with the last of our IRNSS series and are going to end this year with a spectacular mission of launching the heaviest Indian satellite on the GSLV Mark III D1," K. Sivan, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, said after the launch.



"Successful launch of IRNSS-1F is an accomplishment we all take immense pride in. I salute the hardwork of our scientists & ISRO"

Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

EVENTS & PROGRAMMES

World Hindi Diwas-2016

January 8, 2016



Competitions held at the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

Vishwa Hindi Diwas - 2016 Celebrations.

January 11, 2016



The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo Celebrated Vishwa Hindi Diwas- 2016 on January 11, 2016. His Excellency Shri Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India presided over the event.

An Evening of Dance & Music

January 20, 2016



An Evening of Dance & Music presented by Shri Unnat



Hassan Ratnaraju, Bharatha Natyam dancer from India and the dancers of Pradeepa Dance Academy, Moksha Art of Dance Academy, Malmi Dance Academy, Prasanna Ru dance Academy and Chandana Wickramasinghe & the Dancer's Guild held at the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo.

Stringstruck - A musical concert

January 25, 2016



on the occasion of 67th Republic Day of India by Sitar Maestro Shri Purbayan Chatterjee and his troupe held on January 25, 2016 at the Bishops College Auditorium

Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana - Festival of Carnatic Music

February 19, 2016

Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana - Festival of Carnatic Music held on February 19, 2016



The festival was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Hindu Educational Society and Express Newspapers (Pvt) Ltd.,

Workshop/Seminar on Hindi

February 27, 2016



Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a symposium and workshop on "Videshi Chhatron ke liye Pustak ki Bhasa ko Saral and Sahaj Bana ne ke bisya mein Rachnatmak lekh" with professors, lecturers and teachers of Hindi from all over Sri Lanka on 27th February 2016. They established "Hindi Prachar Mitra Mandal" to devise ways of effective propagation of Hindi in Sri Lanka. This event was coordinated by Long Term Hindi Chair Ms. Shirin Qureshi and the local Hindi teachers of ICC.

Bhagavd Gita Chapter 17

February 28 - March2, 2016



Bhagavd Gita Chapter 17 by Sunandaji From Feb. 28 - Mar.2, 2016 Buddhist Cultural Center

Celebrating International Women's Day

March 8



SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo in collaboration with Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo presented "Baawre Mann ke Sapne" (Sound of Dreams) a National Award winning, all-women theatre production by the Creative Arts, India directed by Ramanjit Kaur to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2016 at Lionel Wendt Art Centre, Colombo 07.

E-BOOKS TO DOWNLOAD

India Attractiveness Survey 2015

Ready, set, grow

www.ey.com/IN/en/Issues/Business-environment/EY-india-attractiveness-survey-2015



MAKE IN INDIA MAGAZINE

Make in India and Condé Nast India have created the official Make In India Magazine, a special edition which was launched during the **Make in India Mumbai Week**.

www.makeinindia.com/article/-/v/make-in-india-magazine

