

सत्यमेव जयते

SANDESH

October - December 2015



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Front Cover:

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacting with the school children at the Indian National Army Memorial Marker, in Singapore on November 24, 2015.

- MEAphotogallery



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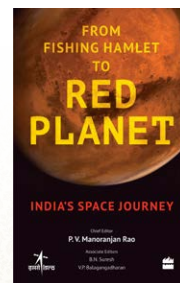
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Visit of Chancellor of Federal Republic of Germany, to India

October 4-6, 2015

The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel paid a visit to India from 4-6 October 2015 for the 3rd Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) between India and Germany. She was accompanied by a large delegation including several Cabinet Ministers. A high-profile business delegation also accompanied the Chancellor.

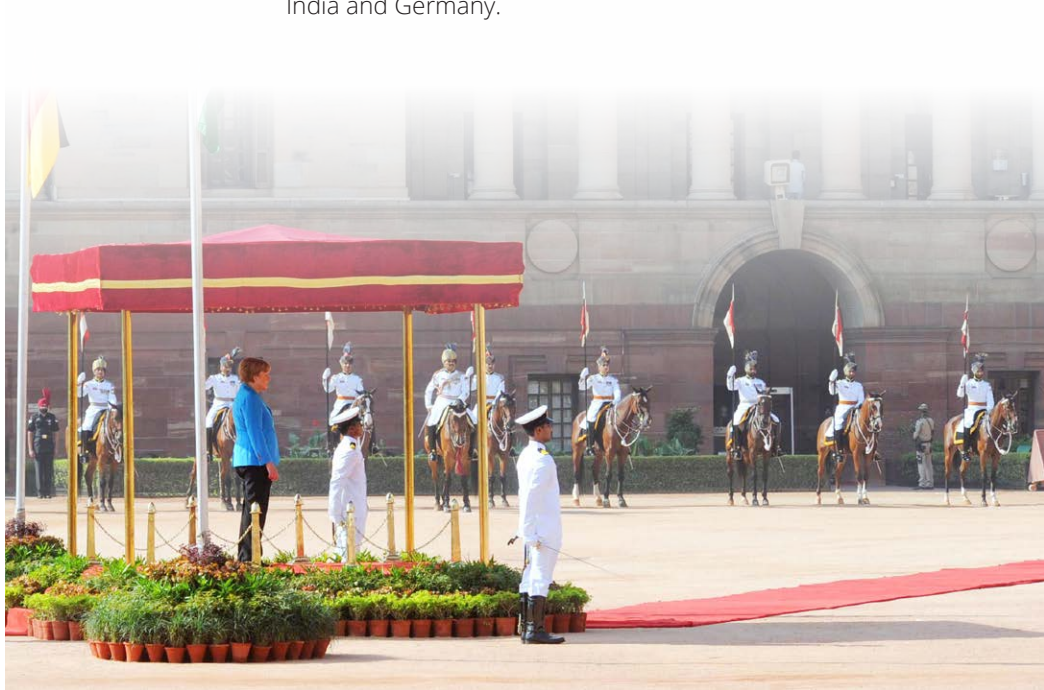
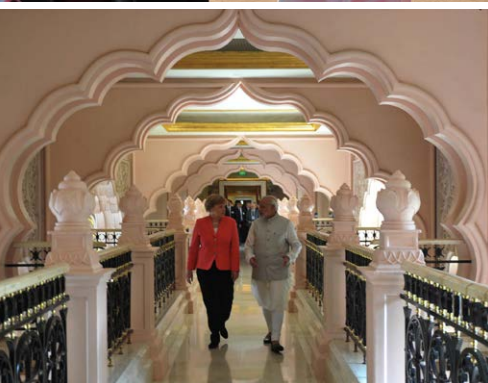
The IGC is a unique Summit-level dialogue with Cabinet participation of both Governments that helps advance the bilateral partnership across the whole range of priority areas of mutual interest between the two countries. The 3rd IGC sought to build on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's successful visit to Germany in April 2015 to participate in the Hannover Messe where India was the Partner Country.

Chancellor Ms. Merkel arrived in New Delhi on October 4, 2015. She was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhawan, followed by a visit to Rajghat and official meetings between the two leaders and Inter-Governmental Consultations between the two delegations. The Chancellor also called on Hon'ble President. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj met the German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeir and also called on the Chancellor.

Prime Minister Shri Modi and Chancellor Ms. Merkel held discussions on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including deepening bilateral engagement in defence, security, education, renewable energy, high technology manufacturing, skill development, science and technology, railways, water and waste management, urban development and agriculture. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of common concern.

The Chancellor and the Prime Minister visited Bengaluru on October 6, 2015, where both participated in a business event hosted by NASSCOM on Industry 4.0 and also visited the innovation and skilling centres at the German company M/s Bosch.

India and Germany are strategic partners since 2001. Germany is India's largest trading partner in the European Union and the seventh largest foreign investor in India. Germany's acknowledged competencies in manufacturing, skilling, high technology, clean energy, water and waste management etc. provide a robust foundation for enhanced partnerships in a range of priority areas. This visit was an opportunity to consolidate stronger strategic, political and economic partnership between India and Germany.





List of Signed Agreements

A – Governmental Agreements

Summary Record of the Negotiations on Development Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India on Indo-German Development Cooperation Regarding the Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership.

Joint Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of India, on one Hand, and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Republic of Germany, on the other Hand, on Cooperation in the Field of Skill Development and Vocational Education and Training.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on Security Cooperation.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on Aviation Security.

Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Management.

Joint Declaration between the Ministry of Science and Technology (Government of the Republic of India) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Government of the Federal Republic of Germany) on the extension of the tenure of the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC).

Memorandum of Understanding between University Grants Commission (UGC), India and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany on Indo-German Partnerships in Higher Education (IGP).

Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, (MoA&FW), Government of India, and the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) of the Federal Republic of Germany on Plant Protection Products.

Joint Declaration of Intent on the further Development of the Cooperation in the Field of Railways between the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India, and Fraunhofer Society, Germany on cooperation in the field of manufacturing.

Joint Announcement on setting up a Fast-Track system for German companies in India.

Joint Declaration between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of India on the continuation of the cooperation in the field of advanced training of corporate executives and junior executives from India.

Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India and the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the Promotion of German as a Foreign Language in India and the Promotion of Modern Indian Languages in Germany.

B – Agreements between other institutions

Joint Statement of Intent on Cooperation in Food Safety between the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Joint Statement of Intent between the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) on Cooperation in Food Safety.

Memorandum of Understanding between the German Agribusiness Alliance and Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) on Cooperation in Agricultural Studies.

Letter of Intent between the Department of Science and Technology, Government of the Republic of India (DST), the Council for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings (Council), and the Foundation Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings (Foundation) on supporting participation of Indian young scientists in Natural Sciences for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.





Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Palestine

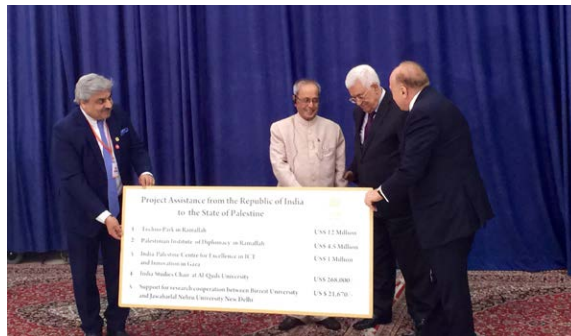
(October 12-13, 2015)

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid the first ever State visit to Palestine from October 12-13, 2015 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of State of Palestine. The Hon'ble President was accompanied by a high level delegation including Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment; Members of Parliament; senior officials; senior representatives of educational and academic institutions and media representatives.

During the visit, the Hon'ble President held meetings and interactions with Palestinian President Abbas, Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Rami Hamdallah, and the leaders of major political parties in Palestine. The

Hon'ble President also addressed the Al Quds University and inaugurate Jawaharlal Nehru Secondary School at Abu Dees. During the visit, India augmented its efforts to support the capacity building initiatives of Palestine.

Palestine and India share a cordial and friendly relationship. India has been extending bilateral and multilateral support to Palestine in addition to developmental and budgetary support. This visit will further strengthen the bonds of friendship and renew the strong and unwavering commitment of India towards the Palestinian cause.





Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Jordan

(October 10-12, 2015)

At the invitation of His Majesty King Abdullah-II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a State Visit to Jordan from 10-12 October 2015. The Hon'ble President was accompanied by Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Members of Parliament and members of the academic community, apart from official delegation and media representatives.

The visit of Hon'ble President was the first by the President of India to Jordan in the last 65 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Jordan in 1988. From the Jordanian side, His Majesty King Abdullah and Queen Rania visited India in 2006. The visit of Hon'ble President to Jordan underscores the desire of the two countries to strengthen their bilateral relations.

During the visit, the Hon'ble President met his Majesty King Abdullah and had extensive discussions on entire gamut of bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual concern. The Hon'ble President had a meeting with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan would call on the Hon'ble President. In the presence of the Hon'ble President of India, a number of agreements were signed during the visit. The Hon'ble President also visited the University of Jordan and make a public speech. He was also grace a function organised by our Ambassador in Amman for Indian community and Friends of India.





Visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Israel

(October 13-15, 2015)

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a State Visit to Israel from October 13-15, 2015 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin, President of State of Israel. The Hon'ble President was accompanied by a high level delegation including Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Members of Parliament, senior officials, senior representatives of our educational and academic institution and media representatives.

During the visit, the Hon'ble President had meetings and interactions with the President Rivlin and Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu as well as the speaker of the Israeli Parliament, Knesset, Mr. Yuli-Yoel Edelstein. The Hon'ble President also addressed the Knesset during the visit. The two sides signed a number of MoUs in the fields of culture, education, science and technology.

India established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992 and since then the relationship has evolved into a multi-dimensional partnership. The two countries are engaged in a range of issues of bilateral interest including cooperation in agriculture, science & technology, education, etc. The visit will further cement bonds of cooperation between the two sides and enhance mutual understanding. The Hon'ble President will also grace a function organized by our Embassy in Tel Aviv for the Indian community in Israel.





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

(12 – 14 November 2015)

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, arrived in London on November 12, 2015. He was accorded a guard of honour and an official welcome by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. David Cameron.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. During his press statement after the talks, the Prime Minister said that he is delighted to visit the United Kingdom.

Speaking in Hindi, the Prime Minister Shri Modi said:-

“This is a relationship of immense importance to us. The familiarity of history, the extraordinary people-to-people ties and our shared values give it a special character. We also have vibrant and growing partnerships across all areas – trade and investment, defence and security, science and education, clean energy and health, technology and innovation, and culture. We have a broad range of shared interests at the international level that are vital to both countries.

We have agreed to intensify our political dialogue and hold regular bilateral summits. We have decided to turn our shared values into a partnership to support development in other regions of the world. And, we have committed to deepen cooperation across all areas.

The conclusion of the civil nuclear agreement is a symbol of our mutual trust and our resolve to combat climate change. The agreement for cooperation in India's Global Centre for Clean Energy Partnerships will strengthen safety and security in the global nuclear industry.

We attach great value to defence and security cooperation with UK, including regular exercises and defence trade and collaboration. This cooperation will grow. I am also pleased that UK will participate in the

International Fleet Review in India in February 2016. UK will also be a strong partner in India's defence modernization plans, including our Make in India mission in defence sector.

Our economic partnership is quite robust and a key pillar of our partnership. I expressed confidence that this relationship grow rapidly in the years ahead, given the size and scale of opportunities in a rapidly expanding India and Britain's own formidable economic strengths. UK is already the third largest investor in India. There is more investment from India in UK than in rest of European Union combined. We will launch a new fast track mechanism for UK investments in India. The revival of India-UK CEO Forum is a welcome step.

We will also increasingly raise funds in London's financial market. I am pleased, but also believe it is natural, that we will issue a Railways Rupee Bond in London. This is where the journey of Indian Railways began.”

In the course of his interaction with media after the Joint Press Statement, the Prime Minister said India cannot tolerate any incident which violates the fundamental values of society. He said India is a vibrant democracy which is committed to protection of individual rights under the Constitution.





Joint Statement on the UK-India Summit 2015

November 12, 2015

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister David Cameron met in London on 12-13 November. The two Prime Ministers celebrated the growing strength, breadth and depth of the relations between the two countries. They emphasised that this enduring connection between the UK and India plays a vital role in safeguarding and promoting the security and prosperity of both peoples. India's economic development and rise as a global power affords opportunities to further deepen and extend this partnership to foster economic growth and inclusive development, update and strengthen the rules based international system, and counter global threats.

The two Prime Ministers endorsed a "Vision Statement" setting out the fundamental principles on which the UK-India partnership is built, and outlining a roadmap for deepening co-operation. They resolved to hold biennial PM-level summits to advance the partnership. They also resolved to agree on a new Defence and International Security Partnership which will intensify cooperation on defence and security, including cyber-security, counter-terrorism and maritime security.

Noting that addressing climate change and promoting secure, affordable and sustainable supplies of energy are shared strategic priorities for India and the UK, they agreed to endorse a Joint Statement on Energy and Climate Change. The two Prime Ministers also agreed to scale up bilateral cooperation to a global partnership for development through a "Statement of Intent on Partnership for Cooperation in Third Countries" which will facilitate working together to benefit third country partners by assisting them in addressing their development challenges in a wholly demand driven manner.

A Global Partnership

The two Prime Ministers noted that in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, deepening the already close partnership on global issues would be vital for safeguarding and promoting prosperity and security.

They agreed that this prosperity and security rests on an international system of rules, widely accepted and consistently applied. The international architecture built 70 years ago has played an invaluable role in securing the space for transformational development. Since the world has changed, this rules-based international system should adapt and renew itself. Prime Minister Cameron reaffirmed the UK's commitment to a reformed United Nations Security Council with India as a Permanent Member, and to enhancing India's voice in international financial institutions. Both Prime

Ministers underscored the importance they attach to the G20. They agreed to remain engaged closely with each other and with other G20 members to realize the full potential of the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation as well as for successful outcomes at the G20 Summits.



The UK and India share interests in stability and prosperity across Asia and the Indian Ocean. Taking into account India's geostrategic location and interests in the South Asian region, the two Prime Ministers resolved to deepen and extend existing bilateral consultation and cooperation in these areas through the establishment of an annual senior official South Asia dialogue covering security including terrorism, connectivity, and maritime issues.

The leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and directed their relevant officials to have close and regular consultations on UN terrorist designations. They reiterated their call for Pakistan to bring the perpetrators of the November 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai to justice.

The two Prime Ministers stressed the importance of a lasting and inclusive constitutional settlement in Nepal that will address the remaining areas of concern and promote political stability and economic growth. They hoped the National Reconstruction Authority begins to function as soon as possible to facilitate post earthquake reconstruction. They also hoped that, following the recent UN Human Rights Council Resolution, Sri Lanka will now be able to deliver lasting peace and prosperity for all its people and underlined their commitment to working with the Sri Lankan Government to achieve this. They emphasised the importance of a

stable and inclusive democracy in the Maldives including an independent judiciary.

The two Prime Ministers emphasised their shared commitment and support for a stable, secure and successful future for a sovereign, democratic and united Afghanistan. They emphasised the importance of a sustainable and inclusive political order in Afghanistan which ensures that the gains of the past decade are consolidated and remain irreversible.

The two Prime Ministers stressed the need for inclusive political settlements in Syria and Iraq and committed to further support the victims in these brutal conflicts. They agreed to continue to hold regular annual senior officials dialogue on West Asia/Middle East, as a priority area for both countries.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the historic agreement on Iran's nuclear programme, and noted the strong commitment of the international community to its swift and full implementation.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that the only way to de-escalate the crisis in eastern Ukraine was the full implementation of the Minsk measures by all parties to the agreement.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda 'Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and committed to supporting its implementation. They recognized that the new 2030 Agenda along with the Sustainable Development Goals has poverty eradication as its overarching focus.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction, the progress made at the 2015 India-UK Cyber Dialogue. They supported an open, inclusive, transparent, and multi-stakeholder system of internet governance and welcomed the ongoing review of the World Summit on the Information Society by the United Nations General Assembly. They planned to work together to promote cyber security, combat cyber crime, and advance voluntary norms of responsible state behaviour and the application of international law in cyberspace.

They agreed to improve cooperation between their technical, law enforcement, cyber R&D, cyber security standards &

testing and capacity building institutions. They also agreed to promote public-private partnerships to support all aspects of cyber security. They welcomed the 2015 report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on international cyber security and looked forward to seeking broader agreement on principles guiding state behaviour in cyberspace. They also expressed the need for both India and UK to participate and actively cooperate in these areas in the future.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that the Commonwealth remains relevant, realises its potential, and brings strong values, development and prosperity to all its citizens.

The two Prime Ministers noted the importance of preserving the environment and sustaining diverse ecosystems, and recognised the rise of international criminal networks engaged in the illegal wildlife trade. They resolved to work together to combat the illegal wildlife trade and to improve protection for both captive and wild Asian elephants. India endorsed the London Declaration and Kasane Statement on Illegal Wildlife Trade.

Economic Development and Finance

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the strengthening economic outlook in both the UK and India but shared their concern that global growth is falling short of expectations and that the risks to the global outlook have increased. They agreed to continue working towards strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and agreed on the importance of structural reforms and pursuing credible fiscal policies in order to raise living standards.

They hailed the strength of the economic partnership between India and the UK: India already invests more in the UK than in the rest of the EU combined, and the UK is the largest G20 investor in India. They committed to further strengthening the economic relationship, including through deepening the bilateral trade and investment relationship, and agreed that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne will drive this forward in their forthcoming Economic and Financial Dialogue.

The UK and India remain committed to working together to substantially increase trade and investment opportunities.



The two governments underlined the particular importance of the information technology and digital industries in both countries, and the contribution that they make towards strengthening trade ties between the UK and India as a key driver of growth and prosperity. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work together to deepen and reinforce bilateral trade in goods and services in this area. Acknowledging the valuable contributions made by skilled workers to both countries' economies, they agreed to facilitate the temporary movement of skilled personnel in accordance with applicable international commitments.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that the City of London should play an important role in channelling investment into infrastructure projects in India including in the railways sector, laying the foundation for a long-term strategic partnership that leverages the capital and expertise of the City of London to finance India's continued rapid growth. In this context, they also welcomed the announcements by HDFC, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and Yes Bank to raise finance through the City of London which also opens up the opportunity for the Indian private sector to raise capital for their investment and growth.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed a long-term strategic partnership between India and the UK on the former's flagship infrastructure investment initiative, the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF), and announced the setting up of a India-UK partnership fund under the umbrella of the NIIF. The collaboration will help bring global investors through the City of London to help finance Indian infrastructure in a sustainable way, further supporting India's rapid growth.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Cameron welcomed the ongoing collaboration by the India-UK Financial Partnership led by key industry figures on both sides. They look forward to considering the Partnership's proposals for deepening the links between the two countries' financial services. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the creation of a new Chevening Financial Services course, sponsored by Standard Chartered, aimed at mid-career professionals wanting to study in the UK. They also welcomed the initiative taken to launch the first-ever exchange programme between the economic services of our two countries to support economic policy making in both countries.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that India's huge achievements in economic growth and inclusive development are not just important for India's own ambitious goals and targets, but an inspiration to the world and critical to the achievement of global targets. They recognised that both India and the UK are thought leaders on development, and agreed to elevate the official-level development talks to a Biennial Ministerial dialogue on Development.

The two Prime Ministers recognised the importance of infrastructure for sustainable development and launched India's first Low Income State Infrastructure Equity Partnership with co-investment from the UK Department of International Development and the State Bank of India. This aims to provide equity partnerships for small infrastructure development in sectors like water & sanitation, clean energy and urban infrastructure.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted the partnership of UK and India in efforts to improve the Ease of Doing Business. They announced a new Ease of Doing Business Partnership



including several different strands of work which will provide impetus to greater investments.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the first meeting of the reconstituted India-UK CEOs Forum. This Forum will be tasked with advising the Prime Ministers about the trade and investment opportunities and challenges. Prime Minister Cameron welcomed a new fast track mechanism by DIPP for UK investments into and trade with India.

The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the need for technical cooperation between the offices of both the countries on Patents, Trademarks and Designs.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi appreciated the advances made by UK in rail project management and operations. The two Leaders welcomed the MoU on Technical Co-operation in the Rail sector and acknowledged the potential business opportunities for the rail industry. Both sides agreed to encourage their institutions to work together, develop options for infrastructure financing, share knowledge and expertise and to deepen research and development exchanges. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the Government of India's intention to launch the first government-backed rupee bond in London.

The two leaders expressed their wish to promote innovation led growth in the automotive sector in India. They identified a need to collaborate and exchange technical knowledge in research and development, testing and administration of testing systems for vehicles. The UK and India are willing to share expertise in these fields to develop knowledge and experience. This will be achieved through an MoU to be signed between appropriate departments and agencies under the Government of India and UK.

Prime Minister Cameron and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recognised the importance of the multilateral, rules-based trading system, and agreed to work together to help ensure a successful outcome at the Nairobi World Trade Organization Ministerial in December, in conformity with the development mandate of the Doha Development Agenda.

The UK and India agree that corruption is one of the greatest enemies of progress in our time. Both sides will work together, bilaterally and in multilateral fora like UNCAC and G20, in order to strengthen the global response to corruption, including through improving cooperation among law enforcement agencies, strengthening procedures for the identification and return of stolen assets, and increasing transparency around the true (or "beneficial") ownership and control of companies.

Both Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to finalization of an EU-India BTIA as soon as possible. The UK and India committed to work closely together towards this end.

Make in India

Prime Minister Cameron welcomed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' initiative. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that this model of collaboration was

already deeply ingrained in UK investments and partnerships with India. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the initiatives taken by both sides to deepen defence technology and industry cooperation.

Business

Prime Ministers Mr. Cameron and Shri Modi noted the deep and fruitful business relationship between the UK and India and welcomed the £9.2 Billion of commercial deals between the UK and India announced during the visit and listed in the annex. The UK has accounted for 8.56% of total foreign direct investment in India during the last 15 years. Indian companies employ 110,000 people in the UK.

Prime Minister Cameron noted the opening of the Indian market to greater foreign direct investment in the insurance sector. In order to extend insurance cover to India's large population, the Government has increased the FDI limit in insurance and pension sector to 49%. As a result, the UK's insurance industry with joint ventures in India, have announced a number of agreements to increase their Foreign Direct Investment in the country. These agreements would amount to approximately £238 million of Foreign Direct Investment in the first instance subject to regulatory approvals. This will support the ongoing development of the Indian insurance and reinsurance sectors, which are key elements in promoting sustainable economic growth.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed HSBC's "Skills for life" initiative in India, a £10 million programme to skill 75,000 disadvantaged young people and children over 5 years.

Smart Cities and Urban Renewal

The two Prime Ministers announced three UK-India city partnerships with Indore, Pune and Amaravati to support India's ambitious urban development goals through technical assistance, expertise sharing and business engagement.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the development of Technical Assistance partnership between the UK Department of International Development and the Indian Ministry of Urban Development for national and state-led support for the development of smart and sustainable cities that are drivers of inclusive growth and job creation.

The two Prime Ministers launched a new Thames/Ganga partnership for healthy river systems. This partnership will consist of a collaborative programme of research and innovation to enable the sustainable management of water resources in the Ganga basin and a policy expert exchange in 2016 supported by the UK Water Partnership.

Education, Skills, Science and Research

Prime Minister Mr. Cameron offered support to Prime Minister, Shri Modi to achieve his goal of preparing young Indians for the 21st Century. Under the new UK-India Skills pledge, 11 UK companies have committed to support skills development in India. Together, the UK government and UK businesses will establish new "Centres of Excellence" in key sectors, starting with a centre for Automotive and Advanced Engineering in Pune. The UK will also support the Indian Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to develop new models of skills training and entrepreneurship with a focus on digital delivery, women, the excluded and the disabled.

The two Prime Ministers announced that 2016 would be the UK-India year of Education, Research and Innovation. This will highlight the strengths of the bilateral relationship, drive further collaboration, including a range of digital technology enabled education and training initiatives, so that both countries create a new 21st century framework as partners in education, research and innovation partners, in the global context.

Both Prime Ministers agreed to initiate virtual partnerships at the school level to enable young people of either country to experience the school system of the other country and develop an understanding of the culture, traditions and social and family systems.

The Prime Ministers announced that UK will be the partner country for the 2016 Technology Summit in Delhi. Committed to promote further joint research partnerships, the two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction, the planned academic exchange which would enable access for Indian scientists to the Neutron Facility at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxford University. They welcomed the establishment of a Newton-Bhabha fund for joint research, capacity building and translation, noting that joint investment in UK-India research has grown from less than £1 million in 2008 to over £200 million today. New substantial investments include multi-million-pound UK-India virtual centres in Clean Energy, Water Security and Agricultural Nitrogen. The two Prime Ministers also welcomed new joint research and innovation programmes on Childhood and Maternal Health and Nutrition, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Urbanization and Heritage, Sustainable Water Resources for Food, Energy and Ecosystem Services, Atmospheric Pollution and Human Health in an Indian Megacity, Aquaculture, and the joint UK-India observational campaign on the South Asian Monsoon.

They welcomed the announcement by Innovate UK, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA), of the opening of a third round of collaborative industrial R&D, making up to £3.5 million available to support novel commercial solutions in the areas of clean-tech energy, affordable healthcare and ICT related to clean-tech energy and healthcare.

The two Prime Ministers recognized that climate change and its impact on agriculture was a serious challenge confronting the world; they welcomed establishing the joint India-UK collaboration in crop sciences which will bring together the best UK universities – Cambridge University, National Institute of Agricultural Botany, John Innes Centre, Rothamsted Research and University of East Anglia to work





through Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Government of UK and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India to address fundamental plant science underpinning yield enhancement, disease and drought resistance and translation of research into sustainable agriculture. They also welcomed establishing of a joint Indo-UK Plant Science Centre in India.

The two Leaders welcomed UK's plans to send 100 academics to India over the next two academic years as part of the Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN); and the ambition for 25,000 UK students to come to India through the Generation UK-India programme by 2020, including 1000 UK interns with Tata Consultancy Services in India by 2020. The two Prime Ministers also welcomed the 3rd phase of the UK India Education and Research Initiative.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the commitment to achieving mutual recognition of UK and Indian qualifications.

Health

The two Prime Ministers were also happy to announce the setting up of joint India-UK Vaccine Development collaboration between the Department of Biotechnology and Research Councils, UK. The Department of Biotechnology would also work with Research Councils to establish a strategic group which would explore the mechanisms to develop the evidence base which would address anti-microbial resistance at the genomic level of the host-pathogen interactions to accelerate the development of new drugs and diagnostics.

The two Prime Ministers underlined their joint determination to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR), noting that it poses a grave public health and economic threat to both countries. Both Prime Ministers recognised that a global response is required and supported a high level meeting on antimicrobial resistance at the 2016 UN General Assembly. India and the UK will also contribute their scientific expertise to a global summit to be held in London in 2016 as part of the AMR initiative of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the Research Councils, Government of UK.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the cooperation in the health sector between the two countries and the on-going Memorandum of Understanding covering areas including Medical Education and Training, Universal Health Coverage, containment of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), improving patient safety through quality, safe and efficacious drugs and the collaboration between NICE International, UK and the Department of Health Research in India on medical technology assessment.

The two Prime Ministers emphasised the potential increased investment and co-operation in health and related sectors. Prime Minister Cameron welcomed the decision of the Indian Government to set up a taskforce under the stewardship of the Department of Health and Family Welfare to facilitate such investment. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the agreement signed between King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Indo UK Healthcare Pvt Ltd to open King's College Hospital, Chandigarh.

The two Prime Ministers noted the finalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India and a leading UK institute for Integrated Medicine to strengthen and develop cooperation in the field of research and education in this area.

Culture

The two Prime Ministers announced that a UK-India Year of Culture will be organised in 2017 to celebrate our deep cultural ties and the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence.

The two Prime Ministers committed support to the digitization of the shared archival collections housed in the British Library and the National Archives of India.

Both Prime Ministers welcomed the posthumous reinstatement of Shyamji Krishna Varma to the bar, noting his key role in the Indian independence movement and the inspiration he has provided to subsequent generations.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the intention of the Indian Ministry of Tourism and the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism to promote safe and sustainable tourism between the two countries.

Crime

Prime Minister Cameron and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, enhancing cooperation to target criminals across borders will be critical for guaranteeing the security and safety of both nations. They agreed to work together to disrupt the flow of New Psychoactive Substances that harm both countries and to open the door for further negotiations on criminal record exchange to ensure greater collaboration between law enforcement agencies in both India and the UK.

Prime Minister Cameron and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reiterated their determination to enhance cooperation in the area of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, particularly where it is related to terrorism cases.

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of co-operation to tackle the trafficking of stolen artefacts/antiquities.

Conclusion

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked Prime Minister Cameron for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation and invited Prime Minister Cameron to visit India in 2016. The two leaders affirmed their vision of a forward-looking partnership between the UK and India that would play an indispensable role in creating economic growth, jobs and security for the people of both countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to working together to build such an enhanced and transformative partnership for the betterment of their two countries and the world.



Vision Statement on the UK-India Summit 2015

November 12, 2015

The United Kingdom and India, the world's oldest and largest democracies, share a special partnership, based on shared values, institutions, culture; connection of history and familiarity of a long partnership; and, the indelible human bond formed by the 1.5 million-strong Indian Diaspora in Britain that has contributed to British success and influenced British life and identity.

Ours is also a natural partnership for progress and prosperity. The UK is the largest G20 investor in India, while India invests more in the UK than the rest of the EU combined. In every walk of life, our cooperation is creating skills and opportunities for our people, and advancing our ability to harness science, technology and innovation for our nations and the world.

Now, the unique character of our relationship, the momentum of our economies, the culture of innovation in our societies, the global network of our businesses, and the opportunities and challenges of our changing world lead us to set a high ambition for our relationship. We look to the future on the strengths of who we are today as nations - modern, diverse, dynamic and key global players.

Our partnership can contribute to India's ambitious plans to transform the lives of 1.25 billion people and UK's goal to rebalance its economy and sustain its global leadership in areas ranging from aerospace to financial services.



During Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's first visit to the United Kingdom, we have resolved to reinvigorate our relations and set it decisively on a course to become a leading global partnership for both of us.

Our governments will work together to accelerate progress and transform the lives of our people. We will invest in skills for this century and create high quality jobs for our people. We will cooperate in health and education to advance human development.

We will invest in infrastructure and promote manufacturing, including in areas of advanced technologies, with the lightest possible footprint on Earth. In doing so, we will leverage our myriad private partnerships, the extraordinary enterprise, resources and capabilities of our private sector and our markets, including the City of London and the financial sector of India. Our two nations are at the forefront of information technology. We will together use the vast new opportunities of the digital age to revolutionise services, increase prosperity of our people and address our shared challenges.





We will be at the leading edge of research, technology and innovation in realising the vision of a low carbon future, while meeting the development aspirations of our people. We will power the lives of our people with clean energy that is affordable and accessible. And we will partner in making our rivers cleaner, our habitats healthier and build smart, sustainable cities in which everyone can prosper.

We are both global actors, committed to upholding the international rule of law and to seeking solutions to global problems within the framework of the UN and other international organisations. The UK strongly supports permanent membership for India of the UNSC, enhanced role in other international bodies and membership of international export control regimes, so that together, we can lead the way in reinvigorating the rules-based international system to respond to the formidable global challenges we face.

We have agreed on forward-looking steps in security and defence cooperation. We want to work more closely together to respond to the threats of terrorism and extremism, cyber-attacks, nuclear proliferation, and violent conflict. We will also pursue enhanced engagement in defence capability, expertise and in sharing technology, analysis and information that enables us to better respond to contemporary challenges and ensure security and safety for our people.

Gandhi famously said that we should 'be the change we want to see in the world'. As two elected leaders of two great democracies, we recognise our responsibilities to transform relations between our two countries for a safer and more prosperous life for our people and a peaceful, stable and sustainable future for the world. Today, we have taken a giant stride forward in realising this vision.

Visit of President of the Republic of Mauritius, to India

December 06-10, 2015

President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. (Mrs.) Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was on a 4-day official visit to India from December 6-9, 2015. In New Delhi, Dr Gurib-Fakim met Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs Smt Sushma Swaraj, and other dignitaries. She also visited Hyderabad, where she met Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Shri E.S.L.Narasimhan, and visited places of cultural and historic significance such as Charminar, Golconda Fort and Salar Jung Museum.





Visit of Prime Minister of Japan, to India

December 11-13, 2015

H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid an official visit to India at the invitation of H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India from December 11-13, 2015.

Expressing satisfaction at the direction of bilateral engagement, the two Prime Ministers resolved to transform the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, a key relationship with the largest potential for growth, into a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership, which reflects a broad convergence of their long-term political, economic and strategic goals.

Vision for a Deep, Broad-based and Action-oriented Partnership

The peoples of India and Japan are guided by common cultural traditions including the heritage of Buddhism, and share commitment to the ideals of democracy, tolerance, pluralism and open society. India and Japan, two of the largest and oldest democracies in Asia having a high degree of congruence of political, economic and strategic interests, view each other as partners that have responsibility for and are capable of responding to global and regional challenges.

The two Prime Ministers reiterated their unwavering commitment to realise a peaceful, open, equitable, stable and rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. India and Japan uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity; peaceful settlement of disputes; democracy, human rights and the rule of law; open global trade regime; and freedom of navigation and overflight. They pledged to work for peace, security and development of the Indo-Pacific region toward 2025 underpinned by these principles.

The two Prime Ministers underlined the need for closer coordination and effective communication, bilaterally and with partners, to address existing and

emerging challenges in spheres of security, stability and sustainable development. They underlined their determination to expand cooperation with other partners, to enhance connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region. India and Japan will work to strengthen regional economic and security forums and coordinate their actions to tackle global challenges including the reform of the United Nations, climate change as well as terrorism.

The two Prime Ministers view that imperatives of a stronger bilateral strategic partnership require deep and broad-based cooperation and concrete actions in defence, security, economic and cultural fields. Our future-oriented partnership raises our collaboration to a new level in areas of infrastructure, manufacturing and high technology, including advanced transportation systems, civil nuclear energy, solar power generation, space, biotechnology, rare earths and advanced materials.

Recognising the importance of people to people exchanges and cultural ties, the two Prime Ministers resolved to boost opportunities for study, tourism, youth exchanges and educational collaboration to deepen broad-based and diversified engagement between the two peoples.

With the view to realise the objectives of India and Japan Vision 2025, the two leaders decided to develop a comprehensive and concrete medium and long-term action plan.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the Agreement concerning the Transfer of the Defence Equipment and Technology and the Agreement concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information, which further strengthens the foundation of deep strategic ties. Taking note of the Agreements, they reaffirmed their commitment to continue discussions to deepen



the bilateral defence relationship including through two-way collaboration and technology cooperation, co-development and co-production. The two Prime Ministers expressed their intention to explore potential future projects on defence equipment and technology cooperation such as US-2 amphibian aircraft.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed Japan's participation in the India-US Malabar Exercises on a regular basis, as it would help create stronger capabilities to deal with maritime challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, including through enhanced disaster response and mitigation capacity. They reaffirmed their desire to further develop dialogue and exchanges between the two countries in the security and defence fields, including through the full utilisation of '2+2 Dialogue', Defence Policy Dialogue, Military-to-Military Talks and Coast Guard to Coast Guard cooperation. The two Prime Ministers appreciated the decision to begin Air Force-to-Air Force staff Talks.

Highlighting the need to leverage their excellent bilateral relations to promote trilateral dialogues and cooperation with major partners in the region, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the holding of the Japan-India-U.S. Trilateral dialogue among the Foreign Ministers of the three countries in New York in September 2015. They noted with satisfaction the efforts of the three countries to seek closer cooperation in such areas as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, regional connectivity as well as maritime security. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction on the inaugural Japan-India-Australia Trilateral dialogue. They were of the view that these dialogue mechanisms



could contribute to regional efforts to evolve an open, inclusive, stable and transparent economic, political and security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region.

Seeking the synergy between India's "Act East" policy and Japan's "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure", the two Prime Ministers decided to develop and strengthen reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructures that augment connectivity within India and between India and other countries in the region. The two Prime Ministers pledged to advance industrial networks and regional value chains with open, fair and transparent business environment in the region. They recognised the importance of enhancing their cooperation and coordination bilaterally and with other stakeholders to realise this strategic initiative.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the agreement reached between the two Governments on the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of India for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and confirmed that this Agreement will be signed after the technical details are finalised, including those related to the necessary internal procedures.

Investing in the Future

The two Prime Ministers noted that India's railways modernisation and expansion plans open up commercial opportunities for Japanese companies in high speed rail, station re-development and rolling stock manufacturing. They welcomed the signing of memoranda on technological cooperation, and R&D collaboration in the railways sector.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on introduction of Japan's High Speed Railways (HSR) technologies (the Shinkansen system) to Mumbai-Ahmedabad route. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi appreciated Japan's consideration of providing highly concessional yen loan for the HSR on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route. Both sides will explore further strengthening of their partnership in high speed railways, which is a high technology area having potential to transform India's transportation sector.

The two Prime Ministers stressed the need for further actions for investing in the future. Prime Minister Abe commended Prime Minister Shri Modi's strong initiatives such as "Make in India," "Digital India," "Skill India," "Clean India" and "Smart City". Prime Minister Abe also expressed his intention to support India's efforts by sharing its advanced skills and technologies and through active mobilisation of Japanese public and private sector involvement, including Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the steady progress to realise 3.5 trillion yen of public and private financing to India in five years under the "Japan-India Investment Promotion Partnership" announced during



the last annual summit meeting.

They also welcomed the progress in the flagship projects such as the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), and reaffirmed the determination to expedite the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) projects. The two Prime Ministers further concurred to take the Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) project to the next stage of concrete implementation including by utilising ODA loan schemes and other facility measures. Indian side expressed a hope to attract US \$ 5.5 billion of investment and other support.

In this context, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi welcomed the "Japan-India Make-in-India Special Finance Facility" up to 1.5 trillion Yen by Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), which aims to promote direct investment of Japanese companies and trade from Japan to India, to support their business activities with counterparts in India, including development of necessary infrastructure, and to help materialise Make-in-India policy of the Government of India. Prime Minister Abe expressed his expectation on further enhancement of reform measures including in the financial sector. The two Prime Ministers decided to deepen mutual cooperation regarding the Make-in-India policy.

The two Prime Ministers recognised the invaluable role played by Japan's ODA in broadening, deepening and strengthening bilateral relations. Appreciating that India is one of the largest recipients of Japan's ODA, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked the people of Japan for their contribution to the building of social and physical infrastructure in India that is key to the country's development and modernisation. The two sides expressed their expectation that the total commitment of Japanese ODA yen loan to India in FY 2015 may reach around 400 billion yen, the highest ever provided to India, and concurred to accelerate their respective efforts with a view to achieving this goal.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi welcomed the Japanese ODA loans of about 100 billion yen for the metro projects both in Chennai and Ahmedabad.

Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's intention to provide ODA loans for the improvement of road network connectivity in northeastern states of India, the peripheral ring road surrounding Bengaluru, and the horticulture irrigation in Jharkhand.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi welcomed ongoing surveys regarding Mumbai Trans Harbour Link and the modernisation of ship recycling yards in Gujarat, and an expected survey for Tuticorin Outer Harbour.

The two Prime Ministers also confirmed the importance of securing appropriate implementation of ODA projects.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi briefed Prime Minister Mr. Abe on his agenda of reforms to make India the investment destination with the most business-friendly environment, for which Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reaffirmed his determination to improve the business environment in India.

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the intention to develop "Japan Industrial Townships (JITs)," with investment incentive for companies that would not be lower than under the prevailing policy framework such as Special Economic Zone (SEZ), and National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ). Moreover, both sides will work toward evolving special packages for attracting Japanese investment in the Japanese Industrial Townships in India. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed to further deepen bilateral economic and financial cooperation.

The two Prime Ministers positively appraised the work of "Japan Plus" and expressed strong hope that investment-related assistance, guidance and support extended by Japan Plus will become even more effective and efficient through enhancing coordination with stakeholders. Prime Minister Abe appreciated creation of "Core Group" chaired by Cabinet Secretary to coordinate and closely monitor the process to ensure that investments from Japan as envisaged in India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership are facilitated.

The two Prime Ministers stressed the importance of expansion in the two-way investment between Japan and India. The Japanese side expressed the intention of establishing a new mechanism, "Japan-India IoT Investment Initiative," to promote investment in Internet of Things (IoT) related area from India to Japan.

The two Prime Ministers recognised the importance of close collaboration in the electricity and energy sector through such measures as use of high-efficiency and environmentally friendly coal-fired power generation technology, and Clean Coal Technology (CCT) including Integrated Gasification Fuel Cell (IGFC) once developed, and renewable energy and promotion of energy efficiency. Prime Minister Abe lauded India's

effort to enhance contribution of renewables to its overall energy mix.

India and Japan, as two countries seeking to transform into knowledge-based societies, expressed satisfaction to the continuous strengthening of their institutionalised Science and Technology cooperation, of which 2015 marks the 30th anniversary year.



They shared their intention to raise the level of their ambition through the establishment of joint research laboratories; enhanced exchanges between young scientists and those under “Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science”; the establishment of joint research centres in India in the field of ICT; stem cell research collaboration; and the joint fellowship Programme for young researchers.

The Indian side appreciated Japan's support to Skill India Initiative through training at Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs), skills development for managers, curriculum development and the Skills Evaluation System Promotion Program. Both countries will further advance their cooperation by providing Indian trainees with opportunities to acquire industrial skills in Japan including under the Technical Intern Training Program.

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation in the education sector, they welcomed the institutionalised exchange of doctoral and post-doctoral research fellows, and encouraged movement of professors and faculty between India and Japan. The two Prime Ministers invited their universities and academic institutions to further expand cooperation. Prime Minister Abe expressed that in the next five years, 10,000 young Indian talents will be visiting Japan under such frameworks as students exchange, IT training and short term exchanges, and hoped that it will provide solid bonds for our future relations.

Recognising the importance of facilitating exchanges between people of the two countries, both leaders stressed the importance of further simplifying their visa procedures for nationals of each other.

The two leaders welcomed the priorities for action in the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and noted the importance of measures to mitigate the risk of disaster arising from earthquake,

cyclone and tsunami, including flood control and early warning systems. They recognized the need to advance bilateral cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi appreciated Japan's assistance to land slide prevention in the area of highway development.

The two Prime Ministers appreciated the growing cooperation in the field of women empowerment and healthcare. Prime Minister Abe briefed Prime Minister Shri Modi on his efforts to create a “society where all women shine,” including by hosting “WAW!”. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed that the target regarding quantitative share of generic medicines in Japan would be an excellent opportunity for collaboration between Indian and Japanese pharmaceutical companies.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed enhanced partnership between Indian States and cities with Japanese prefectures and cities as these help bilateral relations grow deeper roots. They expressed satisfaction at the strengthened ties between the City of Kyoto and Varanasi, two ancient and historic cities integral to their respective cultural heritage. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed his expectation that the two sides will explore to develop a convention centre in Varanasi.

Sharing the view that the future of Asia needs to build on the positive influence of traditions of non-violence and democracy in Asia, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the Samvad conference held in India in September and looked forward to Japan hosting the next conference in January 2016.

Vision for Peace and Stability

Recognising that peace, stability and development in the Indo-Pacific region is indispensable to their national security and prosperity, they reaffirmed that close cooperation between Japan and India is the key to achieving peace and stability in the region. They welcomed the progress in strengthening the East Asia Summit to enhance dialogue on political and security issues, and reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work with all partners, especially with ASEAN which is at the core of EAS, to make EAS the premier leaders-led forum to discuss regional peace and security agenda.

Expressing their commitment to the principles of sovereign equality of all states as well as respect for their territorial integrity, they affirmed closer cooperation in safeguarding the global commons in maritime, space and cyber domains. They underscored the importance of international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and peaceful resolution of disputes without use or threat of use of force; freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in international waters.

In view of critical importance of the sea lanes of communications in the South China Sea for regional energy security and trade and commerce which underpins continued peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific, the two Prime Ministers noting the developments in the South China Sea called upon all States to avoid unilateral actions that could lead to tensions in the region. They were of the view that full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and early conclusion of the negotiations to establish a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea by consensus will contribute to peace and stability of the region. They decided to hold regular close consultations on the issues related to maritime safety and security of sea lanes of communication.

Sharing their concerns about the growing threat and universal reach of extremism, the two Prime Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with 'zero tolerance' and reaffirmed their deep concern over the continued threat posed by terrorists and terrorist groups. They called upon all countries to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 and other relevant resolutions designating terrorist entities. They also called for eliminating terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, in disrupting terrorist networks and financing channels, and stopping cross-border movement of terrorists. They underlined the need for all countries to effectively deal with trans-national terrorism emanating from their territory. They emphasised that the evolving character of terrorism called for stronger international partnership in combating terrorism, including through increased sharing of information and intelligence. They affirmed the importance of bringing the perpetrators of terrorist attacks including those of November 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai to justice.

The two Prime Ministers expressed concern over North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, including its uranium enrichment activities. They urged North Korea to fully comply with its international obligations, including under relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and to take actions towards the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. They also urged North Korea to address at the earliest the abductions issue.

Prime Minister Abe briefed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Japan's efforts, including the "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation and the "Legislation for Peace and Security," to contribute even more to peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi welcomed and supported Japan's efforts and desire to enhance its contribution to global peace, stability and prosperity.

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their intention to work together for the early realisation of U.N. reforms, particularly the Security Council reform, to better reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st century. They welcomed the recent developments in the Inter-Governmental Negotiation (IGN) process, towards the launch of text-based negotiations, and reaffirmed their determination to redouble their efforts towards achieving concrete outcomes during the 70th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. The two Prime Ministers reiterated their support for each other's candidature, based on the firmly shared recognition that India and Japan are legitimate candidates for permanent membership in an expanded Security Council.

Recognising India as the largest democracy and a fast growing large economy in the Asia-Pacific region, the Japanese side conveyed its support to India's membership of the APEC as a positive contribution to the economic integration in the region.

The two Prime Ministers, on the occasion of the 70th year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, reaffirmed their shared commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. They called for an immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) on the basis of Shannon Mandate. In this context, Prime Minister Abe stressed the importance of early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which should lead to nuclear disarmament. They also supported the strengthening of international cooperation to address the challenges of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

The two Prime Ministers recognised the importance of effective national export control systems. Japan welcomed India's intensified engagement with export control regimes. The two Prime Ministers affirmed their commitment to work together for India to become a full member in the four international export control regimes: Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group, with the aim of strengthening the international non-proliferation efforts.

Conclusion:

H.E. Mr Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan thanked the Government and the people of India for their warm hospitality and extended a cordial invitation to H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India to visit Japan at a mutually convenient time for the next annual summit meeting. Prime Minister Shri Modi accepted the invitation with appreciation. The dates of the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels.

G20

ANTALYA SUMMIT



Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Turkey to attend G-20 Summit

November 16, 2015



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Antalya, Turkey on November 15, 2015, to attend the two-day G-20 Summit.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi, who arrived in Turkey after a three-day successful visit to the UK, was received by Indian ambassador to Turkey, Shri Rahul Kulshreshth among others.

During the Summit held on November 15-16, 2015, the G-20 countries reviewed the progress on decision taken at the last Brisbane Summit.

The leaders also discussed global economy and strategies for economic growth and employment, different critical issues related with financial sectors including trade flow.

There are deep historical connections between India and Turkey. Bilateral relations have been strengthened by the exchange of visits of leaders of both countries in recent times.

External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj paid a visit to Turkey during January 15-16, 2016 this year and held discussions with her counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Minister of State for External Affairs General (Retd.) Shri V K Singh led a delegation to Turkey from April 24-26, 2015, to participate in the 100th anniversary ceremonies of the Canakkale Land and Sea battles of 1915.





November 15-16, 2015

G20 leaders met in Antalya, Turkey, on 15-16 November 2015. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, represented the EU at the summit.

The world's leading economies adopted a comprehensive agenda including the implementation of past commitments, boosting investment to drive growth and promoting inclusiveness to ensure the benefits of their actions can be shared by all.

Following the brutal terrorist attacks in Paris, G20 leaders also reaffirmed the need to work together to fight terrorism. G20 leaders adopted a statement highlighting the need to address:

The financing of terrorism

The conditions leading to terrorism, including radicalisation and recruitment

The threat posed by the growing flow of foreign terrorist fighters

Leaders also agreed that the scale of the ongoing refugee crisis was of global concern with major humanitarian, political, social and economic consequences. It needs a coordinated and comprehensive response to tackle both this crisis, as well as its long term consequences.

On November 15, 2015, they discussed development and climate change, the global economy, investment and employment strategies. In preparation for the upcoming COP21 climate change conference in Paris, the EU urged all sides to overcome their differences for a legally-binding deal.

On the second day of the summit, financial regulations, the international tax agenda, anti-corruption actions, IMF reforms, trade and energy issues were discussed

before the adoption of the Antalya Action Plan.

The 11th edition of the G20 summit will be hosted by China in Hangzhou, in 2016.

In the margins of the summit, Presidents Tusk and Juncker also had the opportunity to meet with other leaders, including, Prime Minister Davutoğlu of Turkey, Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of India and Recep Erdoğan, President of Turkey.

At their meetings with Turkish leaders, EU leaders mainly talked about the EU-Turkey cooperation on the migration and refugee crisis.





BRICS leaders meet in Turkey ahead of G20

November 15, 2015

The five BRICS Nations condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut and Ankara and raised concerns over the pace of the global economic recovery.

Leaders of Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa, Dilma Rousseff, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, Shri Narendra Modi and Jacob Zuma, met in Antalya, Turkey ahead of the G20 Summit.

"The BRICS countries contributed significantly to the expansion of world trade, industrial and technological cooperation," a Kremlin statement quoted Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The global economic situation hasn't improved since the group last met in July in Russia during the 7th BRICS Summit.

The BRICS leaders "compared approaches on key issues on the agenda of the G20, evaluated the implementation of the agreements reached at the July summit of the BRICS in Ufa and outlined guidelines for our future work" said the Kremlin statement released after the meet.

"Our countries are committed to working for reducing risk that the global economy continues to face," said Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff in Antalya.

BRICS leaders said they prioritise "the construction of a truly open global economy, increasing and diversifying trade, transport, technological exchanges, reforming the global financial system, including increasing the role of developing countries in the IMF".

Brazil, President Rousseff said, "will continue to prioritize investments in infrastructure, to reduce the volatility of global markets, the need for reform of financial institutions and the fight against poverty and inequalities as important issues for developing countries" at the G20.

BRICS countries "will continue to be a positive force for the resumption of global growth in the coming years" she asserted.

The five BRICS leaders discussed developing agreements aimed at accelerating global economic growth and reiterated demands for one of the most difficult problems in global governance: IMF reforms.

BRICS have criticised the delays in changes at the IMF to give emerging economies more equal representation as "unjustifiable" and urged the G-20 to consider alternatives.

The newly operational \$100 billion BRICS Bank and \$100 billion Monetary Fund "will enable our association to carry out their own large, strategically important cooperation programs" said the Russian statement.

Brazilian President called the operationalisation of the BRICS Bank and the Monetary Fund as "very significant" results achieved by the bloc.

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi said at the meet that India will focus on building "responsive, inclusive, collective solutions" during its BRICS Presidency that begins next year.



"India attaches the highest importance to BRICS. We are honoured to assume the Chairmanship of BRICS from February 1, 2016 and build on the great work done by other members," Shri Narendra Modi said.

"The New Development Bank, the Currency Reserve Arrangement, Strategy for BRICS Economic Cooperation – these are clear evidence of our vision and our resolve. Together, we can also give shape to G20," he stressed.

"We are pleased that China takes over the Presidency of G20 in December 2015. We assure China our full support," Shri Narendra Modi added.

The BRICS countries have launched a \$100 billion development bank, with its headquarters in China and with India holding its first rotating presidency. Russian President Putin noted on Sunday that the BRICS New Development Bank will start financing production technology and infrastructure projects beginning early 2016.

In Turkey, the deadly Paris attacks which killed 129 people, cast a shadow over preparations for the two-day G20 Summit that begins on Sunday. French media reports on Sunday quoted Finance minister Michel Sapin as saying France wants "concrete measures" against terrorism financing at the G20 Summit.

Russian President Putin also called for united efforts to fight the growing menace of terrorism.

"We all understand perfectly well that coping with the terrorist threat and helping millions of people who have lost their homes, is possible only by combining the efforts of the entire world community," Putin said at the BRICS meet.

"As for the threat of terrorism, we have all seen the horror that took place in Paris. We sympathize with the people affected. We always stand for joining efforts to effectively deal with the terrorist threat," the Russian President added.

The Prime Minister of India also agreed with Russian President, Mr. Putin.

"We stand united in strongly condemning the dreadful acts of terrorism in Paris. We express our deepest sympathy and support to Russia for the loss of life in Sinai. Ankara and Beirut are also reminders of terror's growing spread and impact," Shri Narendra Modi said.

Putin met his BRICS counterparts two weeks after a suspected bomb attack on a Russian airliner that killed 224 people in the Sinai Peninsula.

During the meeting with his BRICS counterparts, Putin stressed on Moscow's position that fighting terrorism "must be in strict accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, based on international norms and respecting the sovereign rights and legitimate interests of each state. These basic principles are reflected in the adoption this year of the document – Declaration of the BRICS in Ufa".

World leaders will huddle in the Turkish capital over the next two days amid growing worries about the state of the global economy.

The eurozone economy grew by just 0.3 per cent in the third quarter of the year.

US stocks capped their worst week since August amid concern growth remains uneven as policy makers consider raising interest rates as soon as next month.





INDIA SINGAPORE ECONOMIC CONVENTION



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

November 24, 2015

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, paid an Official Visit to Singapore from November 23 -24, 2015. The current visit is the second by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi this year following his visit on March 29, 2015 to attend the State Funeral Service of the founding father and first Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew.

As part of his visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome, called on President Tony Tan Keng Yam, met with Prime Minister Lee and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and was hosted to an Official Lunch by Prime Minister Lee. Both Prime Ministers held substantive discussions in areas of mutual interest, signed the Strategic Partnership, and witnessed the signing and exchange of nine bilateral documents, and the launch of commemorative stamps to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a Special Address at the Singapore-India Economic Convention, organised by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and International Enterprise Singapore, and the 37th Singapore Lecture, organised by the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Strategic Partnership

The two Prime Ministers affirmed that India and Singapore enjoyed long traditions of friendship based on mutual trust and respect and a shared history. Against the backdrop of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore, the two Prime Ministers signed a Joint Declaration establishing a 'Strategic Partnership' between India and Singapore to elevate bilateral relations to a higher level.

Political, Defence and Security Cooperation

The two Prime Ministers decided to sustain the

momentum of bilateral relations through regular high-level visits. They encouraged the continuation of regular exchanges under the agreed dialogue mechanisms between the Foreign Ministries and the Defence Ministries.

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of defence relations between India and Singapore in their Strategic Partnership. In this regard:

They welcomed the signing of the revised Defence Cooperation Agreement which will upgrade and strengthen bilateral defence relations.

They agreed to hold regular high-level meetings, including at the level of the Defence Ministers.

They endorsed the continuation of joint military exercises and training between their Armies, Air Forces and Navies.

They welcomed further collaboration in defence technology, and encouraged co-development and co-production between the defence industries of the two countries.

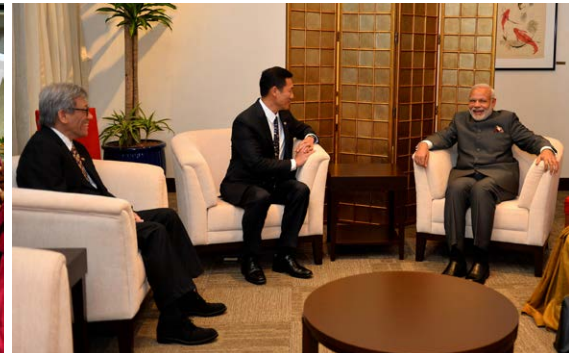
The two Prime Ministers decided to expand cooperation in maritime security. In this regard:

They welcomed the signing of the Technical Agreement on the Sharing of White-Shipping Information between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy in July 2015 and they witnessed the signing of the documents for its operationalisation.

They endorsed regular exchanges between the two Coast Guards and looked forward to greater bilateral Coast Guard Cooperation.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed security cooperation and in this regard:

They noted the useful discussions between both sides at the India-Singapore National Security Roundtable



meetings and affirmed its continuation on an annual basis.

They welcomed the revival of the Joint Working Group on Intelligence Cooperation on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime in order to intensify cooperation on information and intelligence sharing on terror networks and work together to share experiences on dealing with the growing phenomenon of radicalisation.

They noted the ongoing interactions in cyber issues and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in this area. The two Prime Ministers also agreed to establish appropriate mechanisms for regular bilateral consultations and exchange of real time information between the relevant agencies in India and Singapore. They witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security.

They witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors.

Economic and Financial Cooperation

The two Prime Ministers recognised that bilateral business and commercial linkages constitute key drivers of the wide-ranging India-Singapore partnership. In this regard, Prime Minister Lee noted the policy measures and economic initiatives introduced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and noted that specific initiatives launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi such as 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skill India', 'Clean India', 'Affordable Housing for all by 2022', 'Namami Gange' and 'Smart Cities' offered significant collaborative commercial opportunities for businesses and industries of both countries.

The two Prime Ministers recalled the five focal areas of cooperation – the 5-S, identified in August 2014 by their respective Foreign Ministers and, in this regard, instructed their respective agencies to continue to work towards enhanced cooperation in these areas through specific programmes and projects.

(i) Scaling up of Trade and Investment

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the significance of

the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) signed in 2005, which remains the bedrock of economic partnership between the two countries. They desired an early conclusion of the Second Review of CECA.

They welcomed the setting up of a Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry to address bilateral trade and investment issues.

Noting that two-way trade has more than doubled since 2005 to US\$17 billion, they aspired to further double trade.

They encouraged investors and investment institutions of Singapore to increase their investments in India, with the aim of doubling investments.

They noted the efforts towards modernisation of the railways sector in India, and agreed to explore the feasibility of participation of Singapore companies and investors in the redevelopment of railway platforms in India. They encouraged greater interaction between trade and investment bodies and organisations of the two countries to focus on priority areas.

They emphasised the importance of collaboration between the SMEs of the two countries.

Building on the extensive bilateral economic and trade linkages between the two countries, they agreed to explore possibilities to enhance financial cooperation to facilitate financing and investment to support economic growth and infrastructure building in India, and enhance financial resilience. To this end, they decided to establish a financial dialogue process between India and Singapore, as mutually agreed.

(ii) Speeding up air and maritime connectivity and coastal development

The two Prime Ministers affirmed their commitment to enhance bilateral connectivity links in the aviation and maritime sectors. They agreed to expand existing and new commercially-viable air links between and beyond both countries. They agreed to enhance cooperation in capacity-building and share best practices by becoming "knowledge partners" in aviation and maritime sectors.



They welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Civil Aviation Sector which will open opportunities for collaboration in development of airports in India.

Both sides welcomed the India-Singapore Maritime Conference to be held in India in early 2016 with the participation of key players in the maritime sector, and looked forward to greater cooperation in this sector.

(iii) Smart City Development and Urban Rejuvenation

The two Prime Ministers agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of urban solutions and sustainable smart city development.

They welcomed Singapore's contribution of the Master Plan for the new Capital City of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati, and encouraged investors and investment institutions in Singapore to take advantage of the immense investment opportunities provided by the new Capital.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi encouraged Singapore to explore the possibility of developing urban centres under the Smart Cities initiative.

They welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Urban Planning and Governance under which urban administrators from India will undergo specialised training in Singapore.

(iv) Skills Development and Capacity-Building

The two Prime Ministers visited Singapore's Institute of Technical Education and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted with satisfaction Singapore's contribution in upgrading selected Industrial Training Institute (ITI) centres in India, including in New Delhi and Rajasthan, which help serve as models for other skills centres in India.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi welcomed Singapore's interest to consider establishing a Skill Centre in the North East through train-the-trainer and consultancy projects.

They welcomed the ongoing exchanges under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration and agreed to continue to work closely to deepen public service cooperation, including

in capacity-building in areas such as e-governance, and sharing of best practices.

They welcomed the ongoing programmes for training and sharing best practices, including the training of civil servants from India and workshop on Mission Ganga Rejuvenation or Namami Gange Project.

(v) State Focus to Strengthen Business and Cultural Links

Recognizing the critical role of various States of India in expanding cooperation and exchanges between India and Singapore, the two Prime Ministers decided to accord high priority to promoting exchanges among them in the area of sustainable urban development, especially in infrastructure development, water and waste management.

They agreed to facilitate exchange visits by trade delegations, high-level participation at economic summits, exchange of best practices and capacity-building.

They welcomed the on-going training programmes in the area of ease of doing business to be conducted by institutions in Singapore for officials from India.

Culture and People-to-People Exchanges

The two Prime Ministers affirmed the importance of culture for the mutual understanding of their two nations. In this regard:

They noted the successful organisation of the Year of India in Singapore in 2014-2015 and the Festival of Singapore in India on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

They witnessed the launch of commemorative stamps by both countries to mark the historic milestone.

They noted with satisfaction the active exchange of cultural exhibitions, in particular The Peranakan World: Cross-Cultural Art from Singapore and the Malacca Straits exhibition held at the National Museum in New Delhi in February 2015 and the Treasures from Asia's Oldest Museum: Buddhist Art from the Indian Museum, Kolkata exhibition at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore in June 2015.

They welcomed the signing of the 6th Executive Programme on Cooperation in the fields of the Arts, Heritage, Archives and Library for the years 2015-18 through which exchanges of artists, art groups, exhibitions, arts and heritage professionals, and sharing of archival knowledge will continue between the two nations.

Prime Minister Lee welcomed the extension of the loan agreement for artefacts between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) as a special gesture of India.

Prime Minister Lee welcomed India's decision to include Singapore in the Electronic Tourist Visa Scheme. They also agreed on the importance of regular dialogue on consular matters between the respective concerned authorities.

Both Prime Ministers welcomed greater air links between both countries which would further cement people-to-people exchanges.

Legal and Judicial Cooperation

The two Prime Ministers agreed to work towards



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi appreciated Singapore's gesture of returning the statue of Uma Parameshwari.

They agreed to continue the promotion of interaction and cooperation between their higher education institutions, as well as encourage the exchange of students and academics. They appreciated the ongoing collaboration between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the National University of Singapore which is host to the ICCR Chair on Indian Studies.

Both sides also reaffirmed the potential for continued growth in people-to-people exchanges. In this regard:

The two Prime Ministers noted with appreciation the significant contribution of the Indian community to the socio-cultural and economic development of Singapore, and the rich historical links between the two nations. They welcomed the opening of the Indian Heritage Centre in Singapore which highlights these aspects.

enhancing effective legal and judicial cooperation in criminal, civil and commercial matters.

Parliamentary Cooperation

The two Prime Ministers highlighted the importance of bilateral parliamentary exchanges and agreed to reinvigorate reciprocal interaction and exchanges between parliamentary delegations.

Science & Technology, and Research and Innovation

The two Prime Ministers referred to their shared interest in furthering cooperation in the areas of scientific research and development. In this regard:

They instructed their respective agencies to explore cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as joint workshops to serve as platforms for researchers to interact from both countries.

They noted the ongoing cooperation in science

& technology and the joint R&D projects being implemented in focused areas of advanced energy materials and biomedical technologies, and welcomed further ways to explore bilateral engagements.

Prime Minister Lee noted the launch of Singapore's first indigenous satellite, X-SAT by India in April 2011, and further launches by Singapore in India, and welcomed India's continued support in this regard.

They noted that a workshop on Ayurveda, traditional Indian system of medicine, will be held in Singapore in the first half of 2016 as a part of India's commemorative activities for the 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations

Multilateral and Regional Cooperation

Prime Minister Lee welcomed India's growing engagement of Southeast and East Asia pursuant to its 'Act East' Policy, and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi acknowledged Singapore's early contributions in promoting engagement between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In this regard:

The two Prime Ministers agreed to continue to work closely together with other ASEAN Member States to strengthen ASEAN Centrality, enhance connectivity, and support the ASEAN Community-building process covering the three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

They agreed to support regional efforts to create stronger humanitarian and disaster relief capabilities, combat disease threats and boost regional trade, including through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

They expressed support for a modern, comprehensive and high quality RCEP as a concrete pathway for India to deepen its engagement with the region and play an important role in the regional architecture.

They underscored the importance of closer consultation and coordination between India and Singapore in regional fora, including the ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Regional Forum processes.

The two Prime Ministers noted the Asia-Pacific region's continued vulnerability to natural disasters, and agreed there was significant scope for bilateral cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). In this regard:

They welcomed the strengthened ties and partnership between their Armed Forces in disaster relief, including through India's accreditation of an International Liaison Officer to the Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre in Singapore in July 2015.

The two Prime Ministers affirmed the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, especially the expansion of the Security Council in both permanent

and non-permanent categories, to make it more representative, legitimate, effective and responsive to the contemporary geo-political realities. In this regard:

Prime Minister Lee reaffirmed Singapore's continuing support for India as a permanent member in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

Both leaders underscored the imperative of delivering concrete outcomes on this important subject on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations through the inter-governmental negotiation process.

The two Prime Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, both regionally and globally. In this regard:

They also called for reinvigorating multilateral action on terrorism, including through the finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations at the earliest.

The two Prime Ministers also discussed their collaboration in other international fora.

They decided to support an open, rules-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

They reaffirmed that both countries seek to advance the safety, security and sustainable development of international civil aviation and shipping at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). They reaffirmed their shared commitment to maritime security and freedom of navigation, and safety of sea lines of communication in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

They reaffirmed their commitment to building up the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

The Road Ahead

Interactions between the two Prime Ministers were warm, cordial and friendly. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality of Prime Minister Lee and the Government and people of Singapore. Prime Minister Lee accepted Prime Minister Shri Modi's invitation to visit India. Dates for the visit will be finalized through diplomatic channels.





THIRD INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT

OCTOBER 29, 2015

Partners in Progress: Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda INDIA-AFRICA FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation representing the continent of Africa, the African Union (AU) and its Institutions, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, met in New Delhi, India on 29 October 2015 for the Third India- Africa Forum Summit;
2. Reviewing the strategic partnership and the implementation of the Framework of Enhanced Cooperation adopted at the Second Africa-India Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011 and the associated Plan of Action agreed upon thereafter;
3. Noting the synergies of their shared core priorities of working together towards an inclusive economic growth to eradicate poverty and allocate adequate resources for sustainable development, as defined in Africa's Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan as well as the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the priorities of the Government of India;
4. Building on prior positive cooperation in various areas of common interest, agree to enhance their partnership with more substance, based on the aspirations of the African and Indian people to achieve development, integration and prosperity as indicated in the African Union Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan as well as the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the priorities of the Government of India;
5. Noting the importance of urgently fulfilling the unmet challenges of providing access to quality education, skill development and capacity building, affordable healthcare, clean modern energy sources, infrastructure, suitable employment opportunities through development of all sectors of economy including agriculture, manufacturing and services, value addition and connectivity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, blue and ocean economy, and disaster management and disaster risk reduction among others;
6. This longstanding and multifaceted Africa-India relationship has fashioned a development partnership based on equality, friendship, mutual benefit and solidarity which represents South-South Cooperation in all its dimensions. This partnership encompasses human resource development through scholarships, training, capacity building, financial assistance through grants and concessional credit to implement various public-interest projects including for education, healthcare and infrastructure, trade preferences, technology collaborations, humanitarian, financial and in kind assistance in emergency situations, deployment of peacekeeping troops, collective negotiations in multilateral fora for common causes and concerns, among others;
7. Africa and India have adopted this Framework for Strategic Cooperation between them which will comprise the following broad areas:

GENERAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

8. The common characteristics of the African and Indian societies insofar as being multi-ethnic and multi-religious as well as the similar societal values have quite naturally cemented the bonds of friendship between the African and Indian peoples over the centuries;
9. Africa and India recognize the crucial need for gender equality for progress and sustainable development and are committed to promote empowerment of women, which will greatly support efforts towards poverty eradication, protect and promote human rights and build more non-violent and environmentally sustainable societies;
10. The Africa-India Strategic Partnership represents a multi-dimensional South- South cooperation and needs to be strengthened to render it more effective;
11. In this regard, Africa and India resolve to:
 - Facilitate greater mutual understanding of cultures, traditions and heritage and bringing our people closer through exchanges at various levels;

- Promote gender equality and empowerment of women, which will greatly support efforts towards poverty eradication, protect and promote human rights and build more non-violent and environmentally sustainable societies;
- Encourage use of modern social networks to build communities of mutual interest.

Linkages between academia, journalists, media entities and civil society will be further encouraged inter-alia through the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) to document successful development interventions by civil society among communities in developing countries;

- Promote good governance through the efficient use of emerging e-governance technologies. The empowering of peoples through enhancement of digital connectivity and access to these technologies that permeate all sectors of economy will help targeting of benefits to the needy, make delivery of services more efficient, catalyse development and increase citizen participation in governance, and promote financial inclusion and empowerment through access to banks, credit and social insurance against diseases and accidents;
- Reaffirm our strong commitment to work together for a comprehensive Reform of the United Nations system, including its Security Council, to make it more regionally representative, democratic, accountable and effective;
- Deepen ongoing cooperation and sharing of experiences in ensuring free, fair and transparent parliamentary and electoral processes, such as training and capacity building in tandem with current international best practices;
- Facilitate air and maritime connectivity and more liberal visa procedures and visa concessions to enhance tourism, trade and other people to people contacts;
- Support African Small Island States tackling the impact of climate change as well as their connectivity with mainland Africa.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

12. Africa and India emphasize their commitment to achieve sustainable prosperity and reaffirm their collaboration to promote inclusive and sustainable growth for a decent life for their peoples;
13. Africa and India acknowledge that expanded trade and economic ties would further contribute to sustainable growth and economic development in both sides and welcome the contribution by India to set up value addition and processing facilities in Africa;
14. Africa-India trade has multiplied in the last 15 years and doubled in the last five years to reach nearly US\$ 72 billion in 2014-2015. There is growing investment by Indian companies, both multinational and SMEs, in Africa in a range of sectors. These include telecommunication, hydrocarbon exploration, agriculture, light manufacturing, IT and IT-enabled services, IT education, water treatment and supply management, petroleum refining and retail, chemicals, drugs & pharmaceuticals, coal, automobiles, floriculture, engineering consultancy

and management, paper, textiles, among others. Such investment brings in capital and technology, assists value addition and industrialization, diversification of economic activity and most importantly generates employment and promotes skill development for local populations;

15. Both sides recognize that India was among the first emerging economies to propose a duty-free market access scheme for LDCs following the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of 2005. In 2014 India expanded its Duty Free Trade Preference Scheme (DFTP) for LDCs, launched in 2008 and which became fully operational in 2012, to now include 98% of tariff lines. The benefits of this unilateral scheme extend to 34 African countries to increase their exports to India. India took note of the African request to provide technical assistance to the beneficiary countries of the DFTP Scheme in order to further enhance market access of their exports to India;
16. India takes note of the request by the African side to further expand its Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries for greater coverage. Efforts should be made to promote private and public investment from Africa into India;
17. Both sides recognize that the Indian experience in Small, Medium and Micro enterprises offers significant avenues for further cooperation in industrialization, job creation and enhancement of local capacities of Africa, particularly in the field of managing and organizing industrial clusters, and attaching them to the feeding industries;
18. Africa and India welcome the organization, every year, of the Africa – India Project Partnership Conclave by Export Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII); both sides further recognize the importance of the Africa – India Project Partnership Conclaves as a platform for bringing together Indian and African entrepreneurs and decision makers, and therefore call for its continuation
19. One of the most significant forms of Africa-India partnership has been the offer of concessional credit under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) for implementing a range of projects as per the economic and social priorities of African countries in areas where Indian companies have relevant expertise. In the last decade, a total of almost US\$ 9 billion in concessional credit has been approved for nearly 140 projects in more than 40 African countries. So far nearly 60 projects have been completed across a range of sectors;
20. Both sides recognize that technology provides solutions to many of our common challenges and therefore there is an imperative need to enhance effective collaboration in appropriate cost effective technologies as well as in emerging and high technology areas;
21. Energy and Infrastructure form substantial part of the ongoing cooperation between Africa and India. The forms of our ongoing cooperation include training, capacity building, consultancy and project implementation through concessional credit in areas including water supply management, power generation and transmission, road and railway construction and upgradation, hydrocarbon exploration among others;

22. While underlying the importance of private investment in achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth, the two sides decide to share experience and knowledge in this regard, and to:

- Embark on sensitization efforts to create greater awareness of India's DFTP scheme among businesses in Africa and appeal for the extension of this duty free preference scheme to all African states;
- Accelerate trade between Africa and India through a coordination mechanism composed of representatives of the Government of India and the African diplomatic Missions represented in India to promote investment from Africa into India and facilitate the setting up of African-owned businesses in India;
- Enhance collaboration in technology transfer and demonstration, training and joint research and development for specific applications;
- Explore possibilities of collaboration and training in utilising space technology for remote sensing and natural resource mapping including for water, agriculture, forest cover, mineral and marine resources, weather forecasting and disaster management and disaster risk reduction including early warning of natural disasters; and of nuclear technology for areas such as medicine, agriculture and hydrology in large installations that will have direct benefit for our peoples.

COOPERATION IN TRADE AND INDUSTRY

23. The Africa-India partnership is grounded in the core recognition that our peoples are our fundamental resource and that capable and skilled human resources are a foundation for building prosperity for all;
24. Both sides recognize the importance of developing technological capacities of the peoples towards an enhanced beneficiation and value addition to resources;
25. Africa and India take note of the importance of the capacity building institutions, which India is in the process of establishing in Africa's diverse sectors, and recognize that such efforts would greatly assist African industries and service sectors, and in the long run contribute to the growth of the continent;
26. Both sides underscore the importance of capacity building that supports industrialization and the need for establishing relevant institutions in that regard;
27. In this regard Africa and India agreed to:

- Support establishment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Medium and Small Industries (MSIs) in order to promote employment creation and income generation for people of both sides;
- Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) by encouraging Indian businesses to set up skills development units in African industrial zones with the aim to train African engineers, technicians, managers and workers as well as by encouraging other experts in areas such as food security and solar energy;
- Review the functional mechanisms of the already established institutions with a view to ensuring that the processes for their establishment, provision of material,

human and financial resources and management are clearly understood and supported;

- Create a mechanism to enable women groups to access credit for productive activities and markets for their products;
- Enhance cooperation through training and collective negotiations on global trade issues, including at the WTO to protect and promote the legitimate interests of developing countries, especially the LDCs.



COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

28. Large sections of populations in both Africa and India sustain their livelihoods from agriculture. Improving the productivity of agriculture including crop farming; animal husbandry and water management through sustainable and judicious use of inputs is vital to ensure food and nutritional security and represents a significant challenge and opportunity;
29. There has been extensive cooperation between the two sides including through sharing of experience, training, capacity building through setting up of institutions, and concessional credit in farming techniques, irrigation, soil quality assessment improvement as well as provision of farm equipment, among others;
30. Africa and India fully realize that sectors such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and energy production are all sensitive to the adverse impacts of climate change;
31. In this regard both sides agree to:
- Further increase cooperation in improving farming techniques through appropriate and affordable technology, organic farming, improving crop varieties, seeds, efficient use of fertilizers and other measures;

- Enhance joint efforts for more effective and efficient management of water resources and improve irrigation techniques through transfer of technology and knowhow;
- Support Africa's commitment to consign the hand-held hoes to the museum, as it has become a symbol of agricultural backwardness in Africa and oppression of women, who constitute the majority of agricultural workers. India will endeavour to provide tillers, cultivators, harrowers and harvesters at concessional rates and the transfer of such technologies for their



production in Africa, in order to empower the African farmers;

- Promote investment in agribusinesses and food processing industry to generate employment and greater revenue;
- Continue to collaborate to ensure that public investment, services, and policies for agriculture give due priority to enabling, supporting and complementing smallholders' owned investment, with particular attention to women and youth food producers;
- Ensure that Indian agricultural cooperation with African countries give priority to food production and improving levels of nutrition in order to increase the resilience of local and traditional food systems and biodiversity;
- Encourage all initiatives to diversify their economies to expand climate sensitive sectors and to promote adaptation measures that are capable of increasing resilience within the sector ;
- Enhance cooperation and coordination in finalizing an ambitious and comprehensive climate change agreement during the forthcoming COP 21 negotiations, which will be held in Paris, France.

COOPERATION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

32. Intensify our ongoing cooperation in developing renewable energy generation including solar, wind, hydro, geo-thermal and bio-mass along with building power transmission systems.

COOPERATION IN BLUE /OCEAN ECONOMY

33. Livelihoods of large sections of our peoples are dependent on Oceans which have emerged as the new frontier for the development of the peoples of Africa and India. The significance of Oceans for global or regional trade and its marine resources as a contributor to the economic prosperity of our people is evident.
34. In this regard the two sides decide to:
 - Put special emphasis on exploring closer collaboration through training, capacity building and joint projects in developing sustainable fisheries, maritime connectivity, managing marine resources, exploring non-marine resources, promoting eco-tourism, developing renewable energy, and disaster risk reduction through modern early warning tools, pollution control and other coastal and ocean studies;
 - Pursue cooperation in port operations and marine transport, addressing illegal and unregulated fishing and hydrography surveys.

COOPERATION IN INFRASTRUCTURE

35. Intensify ongoing cooperation in training, capacity building, consultancy and project implementation through concessional credit in infrastructure areas, including water supply management, maritime connectivity, road and railway construction and upgradation.

COOPERATION IN EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

36. Since the Second Africa-India Forum Summit (2011), over 24,000 scholarships across 300 training courses conducted at 60 training institutions have been utilized by African nationals in areas such as IT, renewable energy, agriculture, marine & aeronautical engineering, marine hydrography, SME entrepreneurship, rural development, parliamentary affairs, logistics and management, climate change adaptation, disaster management, cyber security, forensic sciences, and defence and security, among others;
37. Both sides recognise the fundamental importance of educational cooperation and skills transfer in enhancing opportunities available to their youth in contributing to economic, scientific, technical, and social development and the need to build further through expansion of training slots in existing and newer areas in line with the opportunities and challenges arising in the African continent in key areas outlined in Agenda 2063;
38. Both sides understand that the development of Science, Technology, Research and Innovation is a crucial element and an integral part of the process of development;
39. Both sides emphasize the importance of the early introduction of ICT in educational institutions as a key enabler for capacity building, education, health, industry, poverty eradication and delivery of public services;
40. Acknowledge the importance of successful implementation of the Pan-African E- Network Project aimed at providing an efficient tool to bridge the digital

divide and also offer affordable and easy access to quality education and healthcare to the peoples of Africa;

41. In this regard Africa and India agree to:

- Continue cooperation in the areas of scientific and technological development as well as in Information and Communication Technology;
- Explore possible joint investments to establish a robust, reliable and accessible fibre optic infrastructure in Africa, with a view to setting an enabled African information society, and integrated digital economy whereby all actors have access to reliable and affordable ICT networks and services;
- Promote greater interaction, exchange and partnership between the tertiary institutions of Africa and India;
- Renew, expand and upgrade the existing Pan African E-Network Project infrastructure so as to permit an innovative utilization of the E-Network Project with the view to cover newer areas of mutual interest;
- Intensify cooperation through sharing of experiences, gender-specific training courses and capacity building measures including through skill development;
- Provide and facilitate the access and enrolment of African students and academicians to India's premiere institutions of higher learning in an effort to boost Africa's capacity in areas such as engineering, medical, technology, agriculture as well as emerging areas;
- Fast-track the implementation of those capacity building institutions that have been found to be feasible for continuation under IAFS-III;
- Intensify cooperation in capacity building, joint research and development and implementation of projects in renewable energy sources including solar, wind and hydro power along with building efficient power transmission systems.

COOPERATION IN HEALTH

42. Africa and India recognize that the promotion of health is critical in the development of human capital, which drives socio-economic growth;
43. They reaffirm their commitment to enhance collaboration and share experience in the application of advancement in science, technology, research and development to training in the area of HIV, TB, Malaria, Ebola and Polio;
44. Both sides recognize the need to improve nutritional and food securities of their peoples and acknowledge the right for adequate food for all and the availability and accessibility of food in quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals;
45. In this regard both sides agree to:
- Collaborate in the provision of universal access to primary and public healthcare, to build resilience to fight and prevent deadly epidemics and disease control through implementing educational programme in this field, recommendation of policies, administering services and conducting research;

- Support Africa's campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) and facilitate its implementation through cooperation in training and education for health professionals;
- Ensure access to affordable and quality medicines and treatment, particularly generic medicines;
- In this regard both sides acknowledge the importance of full use of the flexibilities provided by the agreement on trade related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- Train doctors and healthcare personnel, including through the deployment of telecoms and ICTs in support of tele-medicine and e-health applications;
- Strengthen public-private sector collaboration in the areas of pharmaceutical and procurement in Africa and India in the framework of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the fight against counterfeit medicines;
- Continue their dialogue on intellectual property rights, regulatory procedures and access to medicines and research and development in traditional medicine;
- Sharing of experiences, specialized expertise and best practices in health care systems development and community health programmes;
- Exchanges regarding food production to always meet dietary need and quality standards.

COOPERATION IN PEACE AND SECURITY

46. Africa and India recognize the importance of peace, security and stability as a precondition for development;
47. Africa appreciates commitment of India towards supporting various African Union

Missions such as those in Mali and in Somalia;

48. In this regard, Africa and India decide to:

- Support AU Peace and Security initiative within the African Peace and Security

Architecture;

- Support programmes on conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- Pursue cooperation on Maritime security issues through training, capacity building, sharing of information, surveillance and other measures in securing Sea Lines of Communication, preventing transnational crimes of piracy, combating terrorism, illegal and unregulated fishing, trafficking of drugs, arms and humans through surveillance, and hydrography surveys;
- Enhance cooperation and coordination between Africa and India to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including countering violent extremism and, in this regard, make concerted efforts for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;

- Share best practices and experiences in cyber security especially in combating cyber crime and use of internet for terrorist purposes.

REGIONAL AND OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION

49. Appreciate the ongoing fruitful cooperation between the AU/RECs and India;
50. Take note with appreciation of the third meeting between India and the eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa held in New Delhi in August 2014.

The RECs have worked towards harmonization of standards and rules as well as towards creation of common markets and this has an important bearing on the development of India's trade and investment with African countries.

51. In this regard:

- India, the African Union and RECs will enhance the ongoing cooperation in the areas of capacity building, human resource development, food and agriculture processing and soft loans for regional projects among others.

MONITORING MECHANISM

52. Agree to establish a regular formal monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of the agreed areas of cooperation and identified projects by the competent bodies of the partnership. Modalities of the monitoring mechanism and the detailed Plan of Action will be jointly developed within three months.

New Delhi, 29 October



Speech by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at the Inaugural Ceremony of the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi

October 29, 2015

Your Majesties; Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Robert Mugabe ; Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Madam Dlamini-Zuma;

Excellencies,

The fabric of this world is richer because of the 54 sovereign flags of Africa. Today, their brilliant colours have made Delhi the most special place in the world.

To the 41 Heads of State and Government and the other eminent leaders; to the hundreds of senior officials, business leaders and journalists from Africa, I say this: we are deeply, deeply honoured by your presence today.

To our visitors from the land where history began, humanity grew and new hope rises; From the deserts of the north, where the glory of human civilization shines through the shifting sands of time;

From the south, where the conscience of our age has been forged – from Mahatma Gandhi to Albert Luthuli to Nelson Mandela;

From the shores of Atlantic that has been at history's tragic crossroads and now at the frontiers of many successes;

From our neighbours on the resurgent east coast;

From Africa's heart, where Nature is generous and culture is rich; And, from the sparkling gems of island states; A very warm embrace of welcome and friendship from India.

Today, it is not just a meeting of India and Africa.

Today, the dreams of one-third of humanity have come together under one roof.

Today, the heart beat of 1.25 billion Indians and 1.25 billion Africans are in rhythm.

We are among the world's oldest civilisations. We are each a vibrant mosaic of languages, religions and cultures.

Our histories have intersected since ages. Once united by geography, we are now linked by the Indian Ocean. The currents of the mighty ocean have nurtured the ties of kinship, commerce, and culture through centuries.

Generations of Indians and Africans have travelled to each other's land in search of their destiny or by the force of circumstances. Either way, we have enriched each other and strengthened our ties.

We have lived in the long shadow of colonialism. And, we have fought for our liberty and our dignity. We have struggled for opportunity, and also for justice, which, the African wisdom describes, is the prime condition of humanity.

We have spoken in one voice in the world; and, we have formed a partnership for prosperity among ourselves.

We have stood together under blue helmets to keep peace. And, we have fought together against hunger and disease.

And, as we look to the future, there is something precious that unites us: it is our youth.

Two-thirds of India and two-thirds of Africa is under the age of 35 years. And, if the future belongs to the youth, then this century is ours to shape and build.

Excellencies, Africa is already on that path.

We are all familiar with Africa's ancient achievements. Now, its modern strides are catching the attention of the world.

The continent is more settled and stable. African nations are coming together to take responsibility for their development, peace and security.

African struggles and sacrifices are upholding democracy, combating extremism and empowering women. Women now constitute around 20% of the elected Members of Parliament in Africa.

To one who has played a role in that, President Sirleaf, I extend our best wishes on your birthday today.

Africa's economic growth has gathered momentum and has a more diversified base. African initiatives are replacing old fault lines with new bridges of regional economic integration.

We see many successful examples of economic reforms, infrastructure development and sustainable use of resources. They are turning adrift economies into dynamic ones.

Four hundred thousand new businesses were registered in Africa in 2013; and, mobile telephone now reaches 95% of the population in many places.

Africa is now joining the global mainstream of innovation. The mobile banking of M-Pesa, the healthcare innovation of MedAfrica, or the agriculture innovation of AgriManagr and Kilimo Salama, are using mobile and digital technology to transform lives in Africa.

We see strong measures that are radically improving

healthcare, education and agriculture. Primary school enrolment in Africa now exceeds 90%.

And, across its magnificent landscape, Africa is setting standards in wildlife conservation and eco-tourism.

Africa's sports, art and music delight the entire world.

Yes, Africa, like the rest of the developing world, has its development challenges. And, like others in the world, it has its own concerns of security and stability, especially from terrorism and extremism.

But, I have confidence in African leadership and the African people to rise to those challenges.

Excellencies, for the past six decades, so much of our independent journeys have been together.

Now, so much of India's development priorities and Africa's lofty vision for its future are aligned.

Today, Africa and India are two bright spots of hope and opportunities in the global economy.

India is honoured to be a development partner for Africa. It is a partnership beyond strategic concerns and economic benefits. It is formed from the emotional bonds we share and the solidarity we feel for each other.

In less than a decade, our trade has more than doubled to over 70 billion dollars. India is now a major source of business investments in Africa. Today, 34 African countries enjoy duty free access to the Indian market.

African energy helps run the engine of the Indian economy; its resources are powering our industries; and, African prosperity offers growing market for Indian products.

India has committed 7.4 billion dollars in concessional credit and 1.2 billion dollars in grant since the first India-Africa Summit in 2008. It is creating 100 capacity building institutions, and developing infrastructure, public transport, clean energy, irrigation, agriculture and manufacturing capacity across Africa.

In the last three years alone, nearly 25,000 young Africans have been trained and educated in India. They are the 25,000 new links between us.

Excellencies,

There are times when we have not done as well as you have wanted us to. There have been occasions when we have not been as attentive as we should be. There are commitments we have not fulfilled as quickly as we should have.

But, you have always embraced India with warmth, and without judgement. You have rejoiced in our success, and taken pride in our achievements. And, you have stood for us in the world.

This is the strength of our partnership and our friendship.

And, as we travel on the road ahead, we will do so with the wisdom of our experience and the benefit of your guidance.

We will raise the level of our support for your vision of a

prosperous, integrated, and united Africa that is a major partner for the world.

We will help connect Africa from Cairo to Cape Town, from Marakesh to Mombassa; help develop your infrastructure, power and irrigation; help add value to your resources in Africa; and, set up industrial and information technology parks.

Excellencies,

As the great Nigerian Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka insisted, human entity remains the primary asset in overall development.

Our approach is based on the same belief: that the best partnership is one that develops human capital and institutions; that equips and empowers a nation to have the freedom to make its own choices and shoulder the responsibility for its own progress. It also opens doors to opportunities for the youth.

So, development of human capital in every walk of life will be at the heart of our partnership. We will open our doors more; we will expand tele-education; and we will continue to build institutions in Africa.

The Egyptian Noble Prize winning writer Naguib Mahfouz said, "Science brings people together with the light of its ideas...and prods us towards a better future."

There can be no better expression of the ability of science to unify people and advance progress.

So, technology will be a strong foundation of our partnership.

It will help develop Africa's agriculture sector. Africa has 60% of the world's arable land reserves, and just 10% of the global output. Agriculture in Africa can drive the continent's march to prosperity, and also support global food security.

India's expertise in healthcare and affordable medicines can offer new hope in the fight against many diseases; and give a newborn a better chance to survive. We will also collaborate to develop Indian and African treasures of traditional knowledge and medicines.

We will make available our space assets and technology. We will use the possibilities of digital technology to transform development, public services, governance, disaster response, resource management and quality of life.

We will expand and extend the Pan Africa E-Network, conceived by late President APJ Abdul Kalam, which links 48 African countries to India and to each other. This will also help set up your Pan Africa Virtual University.

We will work to reduce digital divide within Africa and between Africa and rest of the world.

We will cooperate for sustainable development of Blue Economy that will become important future drivers of our prosperity.

For me, Blue Economy is part of a larger Blue Revolution to reclaim our blue skies and blue waters, as we move on the path of clean development.



Excellencies, when the sun sets, tens of millions of homes in India and Africa become dark. We want to light up lives of our people and power their future.

But, we want to do it in a way that the snow on Kilimanjaro does not disappear, the glacier that feeds the River Ganga does not retreat and our islands are not doomed.

No one has done less to contribute to global warming than India and Africa. No one can be more conscious of climate change than Indians and Africans.

This is because we are the inheritors of Nature's most precious gifts, and of traditions that respect them the most; and, our lives remain most connected to Mother Earth.

We are each making enormous efforts with our modest resources to combat climate change. For India, 175 Gigawatts of additional renewable energy capacity by 2022 and reduction in emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030 are just two aspects of our efforts.

We will also deepen India-Africa partnership on clean energy, sustainable habitats, public transport and climate resilient agriculture.

But, it is also true that the excess of few cannot become the burden of many. So, when the world meets in Paris in December, we look to see a comprehensive and concrete outcome that is based on the well established principles in the UN Convention on Climate Change. We will all do our part for it.

But, we also want to see a genuine global public partnership that makes clean energy affordable; provides finance and technology to developing countries to access it; and the means to adapt to the impact of climate change.

I also invite you to join an alliance of solar-rich countries that I have proposed to launch in Paris on November 30 at the time of COP-21 meeting. Our goal is to make solar energy an integral part of our life and reach it to the most unconnected villages and communities.

India and Africa seek also seek a global trading regime that serves our development goals and improves our trade prospects.

When we meet at Nairobi Ministerial of the WTO in



December, we must ensure that the Doha Development Agenda of 2001 is not closed without achieving these fundamental objectives.

We should also achieve a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security and special safeguard mechanism in agriculture for the developing countries.

Excellencies, this is a milestone year when we are setting the agenda for our future and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the United Nations.

The world is undergoing political, economic, technological and security transition on a scale and speed rarely seen in recent history. Yet our global institutions reflect the circumstances of the century that we left behind, not the one we are in today.

These institutions have served us well, but unless they adjust to the changing world, they risk becoming irrelevant. We cannot say what will replace them in an uncertain future.

But, we might have a more fragmented world that is less capable of dealing with the challenges of our era. That is why India advocates reforms in global institutions.

This is a world of free nations and awakened aspirations. Our institutions cannot be representative of our world, if they do not give voice to Africa, with more than a quarter of UN members, or the world's largest democracy with one-sixth of humanity.

That is why India and Africa must speak in one voice for reforms of the United Nations, including its Security Council.

Excellencies,

today, in many parts of the world, the light of a bright future flickers in the storm of violence and instability.

When terror snuffs out life on the streets and beaches, and in malls and schools of Africa, we feel your pain as our own. And, we see the links that unite us against this threat.

We also see that when our oceans are no longer safe for trade, we all suffer together.

And, when nations are caught in conflict within, no one around remains untouched.

And, we know that our cyber networks bring opportunities, but also carry huge risks.

So, when it comes to security, distance no longer insulates us from each other.

That is why we wish to deepen our cooperation in maritime security and hydrography, and countering terrorism and extremism; and, why we must have a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

We will also provide support for Africa Union's peacekeeping efforts. And, we will train African peacekeepers here and in Africa. We must also have a stronger voice in decisions on UN Peacekeeping Missions.

Excellencies, from connecting lives to collaborating for our prosperity, from keeping our people safe to advancing our global interests, the agenda of our partnership stretches across the vast territory of our linked aspirations.

To add strength to our partnership, India will offer concessional credit of 10 billion U.S. dollars over the next five years. This will be in addition to our ongoing credit programme.

We will also offer a grant assistance of 600 million U.S. dollars. This will include an India-Africa Development Fund of 100 million U.S. dollars and an India-Africa Health Fund of 10 million U.S. dollars.

It will also include 50,000 scholarships in India over the next five years. And, it will support the expansion of the Pan Africa E-Network and institutions of skilling, training and learning across Africa.

Excellencies, if this century is going to be one in which all humans have a life of opportunity, equality and dignity; stand in peace with each other; and live in balance with nature, then India and Africa must rise together.

We will work together:

From the memory of our common struggles; and, the tide of our collective hopes;

From the richness of our heritage; and, the commitment to our planet;

From the pledge to our people; and, the faith in our future;

From the generosity of the African saying that a small home can hold hundred friends;

From the spirit of India's ancient belief: *सन्तः स्वयं परहिते निहितानियोगाः*: that great souls are always taking the initiatives to do good to others;

From the inspiration of Mandela's call to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

Today, we pledge to walk together, with our steps in rhythm and our voices in harmony.

This is not a new journey, nor a new beginning. But, this is a new promise of a great future for an ancient relationship.

Your presence here today, Your Majesties and Excellencies, is the strongest proof of our resolve and our commitment.

Thank you! Thank you very much!!

Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to France to COP21

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited France on November 30, 2015, to attend the inaugural of the Paris climate summit (conference of parties - COP21).

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi turned the focus of the Paris Climate Conference to the historic high carbon emissions of rich nations and asked them to ratify the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol which major emitters have not done.

Addressing the Leaders Event at the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change here on Monday evening, Shri Modi said the developed world should ratify Kyoto's second commitment in the period up to 2020, after which developing countries have pledged to begin their own voluntary actions.

The Indian Prime Minister's reference to the Protocol stood out at the COP21 conference, where the discussions were mostly future-focussed, for the post-2020 era. The first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ended in 2012 and many advanced nations have baulked at engaging in mitigation actions, looking at domestic political compulsions.

In a clear message that the onus of mitigation fell on the West, Shri Modi said in an equitable system emissions reduction should be consistent with the carbon space that nations occupy.

"Developed countries must fulfil their responsibility to make clean energy affordable and accessible to all in the developing world," he said, and wanted the \$100 billion a year plan for assistance from the rich to poor nations by 2020 expedited.

Shri Modi demanded that the rich nations meet their obligations in a credible and transparent manner. Apparently referring to the pressure that countries like India may face under a Paris deal, he said he welcomed stock-taking that was done in a transparent manner, where it covered both support and commitment based on the principle of differentiation. The U.N.'s principles of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities should firmly underpin any formulation.



Acknowledging the reality that conventional energy sources such as coal would continue to be used at present, the Prime Minister said funds were necessary to clean up coal-based generation. This could be done using the Green Climate Fund which needs scaling up, he said.

INDC goals outlined

The major voluntary pledges made by India for the post-2020 period were outlined for the heads of state by Shri Modi, with particular mention of the plan to reduce carbon intensity of growth by 33-35 per cent over 2005 levels, raise the share of non-fossil fuel power to 40 per cent by 2030, and to produce 175 GW of renewable power by 2022.

Prime Minister of India, Shri Modi said forest cover would be expanded to absorb 2.5 billion tonnes worth of carbon dioxide and fossil fuel dependence would be reduced by levying taxes as well as cutting subsidies. Cities would be transformed through improvements to their efficiency and improving public transport.

According to scientific assessments, in 2014, India was the third largest emitter of atmosphere-warming greenhouse gases (7 per cent), with China (25 per cent) and the U.S. (15 per cent) occupying the first and second positions. However, viewed in historical terms, India's contribution to the cumulative stock of gases already in the atmosphere since the industrial revolution is negligible, with America occupying the major share.



COP21: Full speech by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at the opening of Climate Change Conference in Paris

December 01, 2015

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was one of 147 world leaders to address delegates at the opening of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris on 30 November. The conference is set to continue until 11 December in the hope of creating a new global agreement on tackling climate change.

Read the full text of Shri Narendra Modi's address here:

President Hollande, excellencies,

The pain of Paris is yet to heal. So, I speak in admiration for your resilience and resolve. And, I salute the world for standing, in full strength, with France and Paris.

Over the next few days, we will decide the fate of this planet. We do so when the consequences of the industrial age powered by fossil fuel are evident, especially on the lives of the poor.

The prosperous still have a strong carbon footprint. And, the world's billions at the bottom of the development ladder are seeking space to grow.

So, the choices are not easy. But, we have awareness and technology. We need now national will and a genuine global partnership.

Democratic India must grow rapidly to meet the aspirations of 1.25 billion people, 300 million of whom are without access to energy.

We are determined to do so, guided by our ancient belief that people and planet are inseparable; that human well-being and nature are indivisible.

So, we have set ambitious targets. By 2030, we will reduce emissions by 33 to 35% of 2005 levels, and 40% of our installed capacity will be from our non-fossil fuels.

We will achieve it by expanding renewable energy – for, example, by adding 175 gigawatts of renewable generation by 2022. We will enlarge our forest cover to absorb at least 2.5 billion tonnes worth of carbon dioxide.

We are reducing dependence on fossil fuel through



Nations Unies Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques 2015

COP21/CMP11

Paris, France



Nations Unies
Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques 2015
PARIS 2015
COP21/CMP11
Paris, France



levies and reduction in subsidies; switching sources of fuel where possible; and transforming cities and public transportation.

We hope advanced nations will assume ambitious targets and pursue them sincerely. It is not just a question of historical responsibility. They also have the most room to make the cuts and make the strongest impact.

And, climate justice demands that, with the little carbon space we still have, developing countries should have enough room to grow.

This also means aggressive mitigation action by developed countries before 2020, including ratification of second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol, removing conditions and revisiting targets.

The principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities must remain the bedrock of our collective enterprise across all areas – mitigation, adaptation and means for implementation. Anything else would be morally wrong; and disparities.

Equity means that national commitments must be consistent with the carbon space nations occupy. We also need a strong agreement on adaptation and loss and damage.

Developed countries must fulfill their responsibility to make clean energy available, affordable and accessible to all in the developing world. This is in our collective interest.

So, we look to the developed countries to mobilize \$100bn (£66bn) annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation in the developing countries. They must fulfill their commitment in a credible, transparent and meaningful manner.

Energy is a basic human need. So, we need an ambitious technology initiative, driven by a public purpose, not just market incentives. This includes intellectual property. For this, we need to scale up green climate fund that will improve access to technology and intellectual property.

We still need conventional energy. We should make it clean, not impose an end to its use. And there should be no place for unilateral steps that become economic barriers for others.

We welcome stocktaking that is transparent, covers both support and commitments, and based on differentiation. Ultimately, for success, moderating our lifestyle is necessary, and possible, for a low carbon future.

Excellencies, the presence of 196 countries tells us that we have a chance to unite behind a common purpose.

We will succeed if we have the wisdom and courage to craft a genuinely collective partnership that balances responsibilities and capabilities with aspirations and needs.

I am confident that we will.

Thank you.





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

December 24, 2015

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Russian Federation on December 23-24, 2015 for the bilateral Annual Summit. The two Leaders held extensive and substantive discussions to review progress in bilateral relations since the last Annual Summit and their meeting on the margins of the BRICS Summit in Ufa in July 2015. The interactions between the two Leaders were marked by deep warmth and mutual trust that characterize the special and privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India.

Reflecting their continued emphasis on further enhancing bilateral economic and commercial relations, President Putin and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi jointly addressed CEOs of leading Russian and Indian companies. A number of important agreements in diverse fields of bilateral cooperation, including several commercial agreements between Russian and Indian companies, were signed during the visit. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also addressed a gathering of Friends of India including members of the Indian community in Russia.

The Leaders expressed satisfaction at continued bilateral exchanges including high-level visits, institutional exchanges and other contacts over the past year that had further strengthened the Russia-India strategic partnership. In particular, the participation of the President of India H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee in the celebrations to mark the 70th Anniversary of Russia's Victory in the Great Patriotic War exemplified the mutual solidarity, empathy and goodwill between the two countries. A contingent of the Indian Armed Forces also attended the commemoration. The Leaders welcomed continued parliamentary exchanges, especially the visit of the Speaker of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Naryshkin to India in February 2015 for the Russia-India Inter-

Parliamentary Commission.

The Leaders noted the intensive and effective dialogue between their Ministries, Security Councils and other specialized agencies and specifically mentioned visits to India by Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Dmitry Rogozin (December 2015), Defense Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Shoigu (January 2015), Head of the Federal Customs Service Andrey Belyaninov (April 2015), Interior Minister of the Russian Federation Vladimir Kolokoltsev (September 2015) as well as visits to Russia by National Security Adviser of the Republic of India, Shri Ajit Doval (May 2015), Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj for the Inter Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation (October 2015) and Defence Minister of the Republic of India Manohar Parrikar for the Inter Governmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation (November 2015). They also noted with satisfaction bilateral Ministerial discussions on the margins of major international events, including those between the Russian Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India Nirmala Sitharaman on the margins of the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (June 2015), the Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters Vladimir Puchkov and the Home Minister of the Republic of India Rajnath Singh on the margins of the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan (March 2015), Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation Alexander Kononov and Minister for Law and Justice of the Republic of India D.V.Sadananda Gowda on the sidelines of the Fifth Saint Petersburg International Legal Forum (May 2015), and Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation Alexander Novak and Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India Dharmendra Pradhan on the sidelines of the Sixth OPEC International Seminar in Vienna (June 2015).

They further noted with satisfaction the participation of Minister for Science and Technology of the Republic of India, Minister of State for Home Affairs of the Republic of India, Minister of State for Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs of the Lok Sabha of the Republic of India at various BRICS meetings organized by Russia as the Chair of BRICS to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse fields.

Trade and Investment Cooperation

The two sides reconfirmed their commitment to realize the target set at the last Annual Summit, to increase annual bilateral trade and investment and emphasized the need for continued facilitation by both the governments based on regular consultations within the framework of institutional mechanisms as well as speedy implementation of decisions and



liberalization of relevant rules and regulations. In this context, The Leaders welcomed the agreement reached on liberalization of the travel regime for the businessmen of both States and called for its effective implementation. They also instructed relevant agencies to continue the process of modernization of their bilateral investment agreement.

The two sides welcomed the outcomes of the twenty first meeting of the Russian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation held in Moscow on October 20, 2015, as well as the decisions of various working groups of the Commission, particularly on trade and economic cooperation, modernization and industrial cooperation. They noted that the joint working group on priority investment projects, which held its third meeting in Moscow in October 2015, had identified several projects and called for early finalization of relevant proposals.

Both Sides reiterated their assessment that the "Make in India" initiative provides a new and durable framework for engagement by Russian corporate entities in the fast growing Indian economy as well as noted the efforts made by the Indian Government

to improve ease of doing business. In this context The Leaders also noted the efforts of the Russian Government in improving business climate in Russia. They welcomed the efforts by companies of both countries to cooperate in this framework in diverse sectors. In this context, The Leaders emphasized the role of investment funds to facilitate high-technology investments in Russia and India.

The two sides welcomed recent announcement of several major bilateral investment proposals and called on companies in both countries to finalize new and ambitious investment proposals in promising sectors such as oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, chemical industry, mining, machine building, implementation of infrastructure projects, cooperation in railway sector, fertilizer production, automobiles and aircraft construction as well as collaborative ventures in modernizing each other's industrial facilities.

They welcomed enhanced interactions between representatives of the business community of Russia and India including the CEOs level interaction during the summit as well as during large trade and business events such as the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum and the Eastern Economic Forum. They called for continuation of such interactions and noted that India's participation as a partner country in the International Industrial Exhibition INNOPROM 2016 would emphasize the recognized authority of the event as one of the most representative among international events in the field of industry, scientific and technological innovations. Russia's participation as partner country in India Engineering Sourcing Show 2017 could impart added momentum to bilateral economic relations.

The Leaders welcomed the successful launch of the Joint Study Group to consider the feasibility of a free trade agreement between the Republic of India and the Member States of the Eurasian Economic Union and the first meeting of the Study Group in Moscow on 31 July 2015. The Leaders supported early finalization of a draft Joint Study Group report.

The Leaders attach great importance to exploring new multi-modal connectivity between their economies to facilitate the movement of bulk goods and commodities as well as trade between the two countries. In this context, they welcomed increased emphasis on implementation of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), and noted that several meetings including the Stakeholders Meeting, INSTC Council, Expert Level meetings and a meeting of customs agencies had been held over the past few months. They stressed that the INSTC can play a key role in promoting economic integration in the region stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Baltic Sea by creating new centers of growth as well as joint industrial and infrastructure facilities.

The Leaders noted that Customs authorities of the two countries had created legal mechanisms for

implementing the Green Corridor arrangement and plan to soon launch it in a test mode.

The Leaders welcomed initiatives to promote direct trade in diamonds between Russia and India, including the increased number of Indian resident companies signing long-term rough diamonds supply contracts with PJSC ALROSA from 9 in 2014 to 12 in 2015. Both Sides also welcomed the creation of a Special Notified Zone (SNZ) at the Bharat Diamond Bourse and the start of diamond viewing by ALROSA Group on its premises. They agreed to further promote the development of SNZ and its rough diamond auctions mechanism.

The Leaders noted developing cooperation between Russian and Indian commercial banks and an existing scope for its further expansion. Taking into account the important role of banks in settlement of bilateral trade and investment contracts, the Sides express hope for the enhancement by commercial banks of the two



countries of their partnership, including establishment of correspondent relations and increasing lending limits. The Leaders welcomed the ongoing work, coordinated by the two central banks to promote the use of national currencies in mutual trade and called for continued concerted engagement by relevant regulatory institutions and commercial entities to further facilitate and enhance such trade settlements.

Energy Cooperation

The Leaders reaffirmed that their cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is a cornerstone of the Russia-India strategic partnership. They reiterated their commitment to bilateral agreements on developing cooperation in nuclear energy, including the Strategic Vision for Strengthening Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India signed in New Delhi on December 11, 2014. They noted with satisfaction continued senior official level interactions between their atomic energy establishments, including under the framework of the three new Joint Working Groups on Nuclear Fuel, Science and Technology and Nuclear Power set up during the last Summit. They appreciated the progress made in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project and agreed to expedite the implementation of ongoing and upcoming projects at Kudankulam. The Leaders welcomed progress in identifying the second site in India for additional six nuclear reactor units to be set up in cooperation with Russia. They agreed to actively work towards localization of manufacturing in India

under the aegis of Make in India and in tandem with the serial construction of nuclear power plants. In this context, they welcomed the finalization of Programme of Action for localization between RosAtom of Russia and the Department of Atomic Energy of India.

The Leaders welcomed the first meeting of the Joint Study Group for studying the possibility of hydrocarbon pipeline system connecting Russia and India held in Moscow on November 6, 2015 as part of the Programme on Enhanced Cooperation in the Oil and Gas sphere signed in New Delhi in December 2014.

The Leaders noted the interest of JSC Zarubezhneft in cooperating with Indian partners in upstream oil and gas projects in Russia, India and third countries, including implementation of enhanced and improved oil recovery technologies and provision of oil field services for onshore and offshore Indian oilfields. The

Leaders supported intensification of activity under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by JSC Zarubezhneft and Oil India Limited in December 2014, aiming at signing and joint realization of particular contracts.

Both Sides acknowledge the significance of supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies from Russia to India. In this regard, The Leaders expressed satisfaction at the development of cooperation between Gazprom Group and its Indian partners in LNG trade. The Russian Side welcomes the interest and involvement of Indian partners with regard to cooperation in joint projects stipulating the possibility of LNG supply to India from JSC NOVATEK project Arctic LNG on the resource base of the fields located on the Gydan Peninsula and partly in the Gulf of Ob.

The Leaders welcomed the signing of Agreement between Rosneft and ONGC Videsh Limited for acquiring 15% stakes by OVL in Rosneft's Vankorneft Oil fields and discussions for further stakes in future. They noted the continued interest of Indian companies in investing in the hydrocarbon sector in Russia, in particular discussions between Rosneft and Oil India limited on promising investment projects, and called for early finalization of new investment proposals. The Leaders welcomed the Key Terms of Oil and Oil Products Supplies signed by Rosneft and Essar group in December 2014 as well as the Contract for oil supplies for the Vadinar refinery (India), which also provides stakes for Rosneft in the refinery,

concluded between these businesses on the margins of the BRICS Summit in Ufa on 8 July 2015. Both sides noted with appreciation the offer made by Rosneft of scholarships to Indian students interested in pursuing courses in the field of Oil and Petroleum in Russia.

Cooperation in Education and Science and Technology

The Leaders noted positive developments in scientific and technological cooperation. They emphasized the importance of full implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 30 June 1994, and the Comprehensive long term programme of cooperation in science, technology and innovations between Russia and India until 2020.

Welcoming the outcomes of the 8th session of the bilateral Working Group on Science and Technology held on 3 September 2015 in Moscow, The Leaders expressed confidence that they would facilitate further development of ties in the scientific and technological cooperation. The Leaders welcomed the decision to establish a Russian-Indian council for organizations to finance cooperation in science, technology and innovation.



The Leaders noted with satisfaction joint research under the programmes of Russian Ministry of Education and Science and the Indian Department of Science and Technology and the Indian Department of Biotechnology as well as the Russian Foundation for Basic Research and the Indian Department of Science and Technology. The Leaders welcomed the launching of new calls for scientific research projects in 2016. They also noted the signing of an Agreement in May 2015 between the Russian Science Foundation and the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the decisions made in September 2015 to provide grants for fundamental and exploratory research in natural and technical sciences. The agreement being finalized between the Federal Association of Scientific Organizations and Department of the Science and Technology of the Republic of India for joint collaborations in

international research teams, will impart a further fillip to S&T collaboration.

The Leaders pointed out the necessity to further enhance cooperation under the auspices of Russian-Indian research centers and welcomed the Declaration on Association of Russian and Indian Universities signed in Moscow in May 2015, which would promote exchange of students and faculty, development of curriculum, creation of joint laboratories, organization of scientific conferences and seminars as well as conducting of joint scientific research and collaboration in commercialization of technologies developed in research institutions. As an important measure to boost the effectiveness of cooperation among Russian-Indian research centers, The Leaders called for the creation of an Russian-Indian data base of scientific and educational institutions and joint projects proposed by those institutions, as well as the development and maintenance of a catalogue of initiatives through which the Russian-Indian cooperation in science and technology is implemented. The Leaders nominated Tomsk State University and the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai as coordinators of these initiatives as a "Russia-India Resource Centre".

The Leaders welcomed the agreements between Moscow State University and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore along with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune to launch a Russia-Indian High Performance Computing Initiative, which would promote cooperation in Education Systems and Research Methodologies.

Considering Russia's status as a member of the Arctic Council (AC) and India's observer status at this organization since 2013, The Leaders emphasized the importance of joint activities in the framework of the Arctic Council. They acknowledged the potential for the development of joint scientific research in the Arctic region, particularly the Russian Scientific Center on Spitsbergen (Svalbard) archipelago.

The Leaders welcomed the decision to establish a joint working group on education and noted the immense potential for expanding student exchanges, cooperation in vocational training and training of engineers, teachers and other specialists. The Indian Side highlighted the programme of Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN) in this regard and encouraged faculty from various universities in Russia to avail of the opportunities available. Both sides welcomed progress towards the establishment of an Ayurveda Chair in the People Friendship University in Moscow. They further agreed to work towards early finalization of intergovernmental agreements on the recognition of educational and academic degrees.

The Leaders welcomed the successful Round Table on Cooperation in development of e-Government Services and Information and Communication Technologies at the level of Deputy Minister/ Secretary of relevant departments held in Moscow

on 7 October 2015. Both sides discussed ways and mechanisms for strengthening cooperation in areas such as e-Governance, IT-ITeS trade promotion, joint development of software, High Performance Computing, Telecommunication and information security. The Leaders will make efforts in order to reach a mutually acceptable settlement of the situation around the Russian-Indian joint venture Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.

Culture, Tourism and People to People contacts

The Leaders called for early conclusion of a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2016–2018 between the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and confirmed their interest in intensifying cultural cooperation, including between academic and research organizations of the two countries acting in the field of culture and arts. Noting the success of the Festival of Indian Culture in Russia in 2015, it was decided to have the Festival of Russian Culture in India in 2016.

The two Sides noted ongoing interactions between mass media organizations of the two countries and affirmed the need for enhancing cooperation in the information sphere. In this context, they welcomed the MoU between VGTRK and Prasar Bharti for exchange of news and current affairs as well as other content. The two Sides also endorsed the increased interaction between the media companies of the two countries within the multilateral formats under the SCO and BRICS auspices.

The Leaders appreciated the agreement reached by the Joint Working Group on culture and tourism in Moscow (August 2015) on developing direct contacts between state institutions of the two countries in tourism promotion.

Reaffirming the enormous goodwill and strong ties between the people of Russia and India, The Leaders welcomed the finalized agreement to issue six-month multiple entry tourist visas, based on reciprocity, which would further enhance tourism and people-to-people contacts. The Leaders noted that the introduction of e-Tourist visas by the Indian Side had further simplified visa procedures for Russian nationals, which was reflected in the fact that nearly 20000 Russian tourists had already availed of this facility. Russia and India agreed to work towards further simplification and liberalization of visa arrangements, and consider measures such as group visa-free travel, to increase tourist flows between them.

The Leaders welcomed the signing of the Protocol for amendment of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and Government of the Republic of India of 3 December 2004 on mutual travel regime for holders of diplomatic and official passports and the Protocol for amendment

of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India of 21 December 2010 on simplification of requirements for mutual travels of certain categories of citizens of the two countries. The Leaders will facilitate movement of crew of scheduled commercial airlines and charter flights of both Sides through appropriate use of General Declaration and issuance of long-term multiple entry gratis visas.

The Leaders noted the importance of interaction on issues related to migration and agreed to work towards improving the legal framework of cooperation in the sphere of migration, work permits and temporary residency permit for Indian nationals working in Russia through continued dialogue on these issues.

The Leaders expressed support for further intensifying cooperation between the states and union territories of the Republic of India and the regions of the Russian Federation in the field of economy and culture. They noted the importance of establishing close contacts between the business representatives at the regional level.

Space cooperation

The Leaders expressed mutual commitment to the further development of cooperation in the field of outer space exploration for mutual benefit in such fields as rocket and engine engineering, as well as development of spacecraft, including microsatellites, Earth remote sensing and space meteorology, satellite navigation and related technologies and services, as well as space science. In this regard they commended the MOU between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Federal Space Agency on expanding cooperation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes signed in June 2015. The MOU was memorable also as it was timed to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the launch of the first Indian satellite using a Soviet carrier launch vehicle.

Both Sides welcomed the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding signed between OJSC "GLONASS", Glonass Union and the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC) for cooperation in commercial applications through integration of Russian and Indian satellite navigation systems.

Defence and Military-Technical Cooperation

Both Sides reaffirmed that military-technical cooperation remains one of the key elements of the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the two countries. In this context, they commended the outcomes of the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Russian-Indian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation held in New Delhi in January 2015 and in Moscow in November 2015 respectively.

The Leaders expressed satisfaction at joint Russian-Indian naval exercises in December 2015 in the Bay of Bengal, as well as INDRA-2015 joint exercises involving ground forces conducted in Rajasthan (India) in November 2015. They welcomed the visit of the Chief of the Army Staff of India to Russia in September 2015 during which useful discussions were held to expand training, joint exercises and institutionalized interactions between the Armed Forces of both countries.

The Leaders took note of achievements in the field of joint design, development and production of high-technology military equipment. Both sides reaffirmed their intention to expand the scope of such cooperation and to avail of the opportunities provided by the Make in India initiative in the defence sector and directed the concerned agencies to finalize such projects between relevant entities and enterprises of the two countries at the earliest.

Security and Disaster Management

The Leaders emphasized the need for sustained and institutionalized interactions to foster greater security-related cooperation. They noted the successful visit of the Russian Interior Minister to India in September 2015, during which discussions on a new Agreement on Cooperation security matters were initiated. They called for early finalization of the Agreement which would provide an enabling framework to further develop ongoing interactions between their security establishments for exchange of best practices, training and expertise, especially in countering extremism and terrorism. In this context, The Leaders welcomed recent intensification of operational level exchanges between the Federal Security Service of Russia and the National Security Guards of India.

The Leaders agreed to strengthen linkages between their anti-narcotics agencies. They agreed to work towards early finalization of a Joint Action Plan between the Federal Service for Narcotics Control of Russia and Narcotics Control Bureau of India.

The two Sides reaffirmed their mutual support on disaster risk reduction, rescue and humanitarian relief, as reflected in their cooperation in evacuation of their citizens during the crisis in Yemen in April 2015. They agreed to finalize a Joint Action Plan between the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Ministry of Home Affairs of India to guide cooperation in this regard.

International and Regional Issues

The Leaders call for creation of a common space for international economic cooperation, building on market mechanisms and jointly developed rules based on the WTO principles that imply freedom of trade, investment and open competition. Both Sides stressed the need to preserve the integrity and balance of

the multilateral trading system, based on universally recognized WTO rules and norms.

The Leaders expressed their commitment to the progressive development of cooperation within BRICS and the strengthening of its global role. The Leaders commended the outcomes of the 7th BRICS summit in Ufa (July 8-9, 2015) and stressed the importance of the documents adopted: the Ufa Declaration, the Ufa Action Plan, and the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership. The Leaders agreed to ensure, throughout the upcoming Indian presidency, continuity in the implementation of the agreements reached, further coordination of activities in the international arena, and to strengthen the strategic partnership between BRICS countries. The Leaders emphasized their mutual commitment to expand intra BRICS cooperation in various fields including industry. In this context, they noted, inter alia, the successful meetings of BRICS Ministers of Industry (October 20, 2015) and Energy Ministers (November 19-20, 2015) in Moscow and welcomed the relevant memoranda of understanding adopted during these meetings. They noted the strong role played by Russia and India in the New Development Bank which will give a new impetus to the financing of major development projects.

The Leaders emphasized the intention to deepen their interaction aimed at strengthening the role and authority of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). They agreed to work together to increase the effectiveness of joint efforts in the SCO framework to counter threats and challenges to security, including those emanating from the territory of Afghanistan, and to enhance economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation in the region. The Leaders welcomed the decision to commence the procedure for India's membership of the SCO adopted at the Ufa meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO Member States on 10 July 2015. The Indian Side expressed its



deep appreciation at the role played by Russia as Chair of the SCO in this regard. The Leaders agreed to work together to finalize legal, financial and administrative aspects of India's accession to the Organization.

The Leaders expressed satisfaction at the results of the Group of Twenty Summit held in Antalya on 15-16 November, 2015, and emphasized the importance of joint efforts aimed at increasing the role of the G-20

in stimulating global economic growth, ensuring the stability of international finance, improving global economic governance and accelerating structural reforms. The Leaders called for measures to create of a more representative and legitimate international financial architecture.

The Leaders agreed to work together to promote an open, inclusive and evolutionary regional architecture for security and stability in the Asia Pacific, emphasizing the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue, while respecting the diversity of political systems and development choices. They agreed to increase cooperation within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus and contribute to strengthening the leading mechanisms of practical interaction on identifying ways and means to maintain peace and stability in the Asia Pacific.

The Leaders expressed satisfaction at the significant progress and achievements of the East Asia Summit (EAS) over the past ten years, and concurred that the EAS should continue to be a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. They noted that the inclusion of maritime cooperation as a priority area for cooperation in the EAS merits further consideration. They also agreed to continue joint efforts aimed at developing Nalanda University as an international center of excellence.

They took note of the progress made in the development of the Eurasian Economic Union and negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and expressed their willingness to work towards strengthening regional and global economic integration, further economic cooperation and equitable economic development in the region.

Russia and India expressed their willingness to closely interact in other multilateral formats, such as the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the Asia Cooperation Dialogue. Russia reiterated its support for India's application to join APEC and committed to work closely with India on this issue.

The Leaders reiterated the importance of interaction in the Russia-India-China (RIC) format, noting that this mechanism contributes to enhancing mutual trust and to extending coordination on international and regional issues. The Leaders also stressed the role of the RIC countries' high representatives in charge of security issues in developing common approaches to countering challenges and threats to regional stability.

Strongly condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, The Leaders noted that it is only possible to effectively fight this global menace through joint efforts of the entire world community without selectivity and double standards, in strict compliance

with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Russia and India are convinced that an important aspect of countering terrorism is its prevention, inter alia, through effective suppression of the spread of terrorist propaganda and extremist ideas. The Leaders called for the elimination, once and for all, of all "safe havens" of terrorists. The Leaders also called for the early completion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Noting the growing challenges and threats in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), The Leaders emphasized the need to develop bilateral cooperation in the field of ICTs. Reaffirming the key role of the UN in addressing the issues related to the security in the use of ICTs, they also agreed to work together for developing universal rules of responsible behaviour of the States in the use of ICTs to address threats to international peace and security. The Leaders are particularly concerned with the use of ICTs in violation of the UN Charter as well as for criminal and terrorist purposes, and agreed to cooperate in addressing these issues.

Stressing that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, Russia and India reiterated that they were against the weaponization of outer space. In this connection they called for a speedy launch of negotiations to conclude a relevant legally binding international agreement at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Noting the urgency of preventing the arms race in outer space and ensuring the safety of space operations and long-term sustainability of outer space activities, The Leaders affirmed the need to discuss and interact on practical measures conducive to this end in the First Committee, the UN Disarmament Commission, the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and at other relevant platforms.

Russia and India are united by common interests in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass



destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems and its falling into the hands of terrorists, as well as in strengthening multilateral export control regimes. In this context, Russia welcomes India's early accession to the Missile Technology Control Regime that would increase the effectiveness of this mechanism. Stressing once again that India should fully participate in the development of the norms of international export control regulation, Russia expressed its readiness to support India's aspiration for full membership in the Nuclear Suppliers' Group. Russia also supported India's interest in full membership in the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Both Sides expressed serious concern at developments in Syria and Iraq where terrorist groups including Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the al Nusra Front and other similar groups are operating causing violence. Both sides share the view that presence of terrorist groups in much of Iraq and Syria directly threatens regional and global security. Both sides expressed their support to global efforts to fight terrorism and to enhancing international efforts to counter activities of terrorist groups including "foreign terrorist fighters" pursuant to the relevant UNSC resolutions.

Russia and India voiced their strong support to sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria. Both sides expressed a common understanding that the internal armed conflict in Syria cannot be solved by the use of force, but rather through political and diplomatic means – through a substantive intra-Syrian dialogue without preconditions or external interference and based on the Geneva Communiqué of June 30, 2012, the Joint Statement on the outcome of the multilateral talks on Syria in Vienna of October 30, 2015 and the Statement of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) of November 14, 2015.

Both sides expressed their strong support for the people and the Government of Iraq in their efforts to overcome the existing crisis and to uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity. They emphasized the importance of national reconciliation and unity in Iraq by creation of an inclusive state system and strengthening of national democratic institutions through capacity building.

Russia and India welcome the progress achieved in the area of security, including the maintenance of the ceasefire regime in south-eastern Ukraine, as well as the signing of the agreement on the withdrawal of military equipment and artillery of the less than 100 millimeter calibre from the line of contact, which creates favourable conditions for moving forward the political settlement that has no alternative. Reconciliation of The Leaders is only possible through a direct inclusive dialogue, for which it is necessary to fully comply with all the provisions of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements adopted on 12 February 2015 by the Contact Group on Ukraine

with support of the Leaders of Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine, and approved by the UN Security Council resolution 2202.

The Leaders expressed concern about the aggravation of the security situation in Afghanistan, including along its borders. The Leaders recognized that terrorism and extremism pose the main threat to security and stability of Afghanistan, the region and beyond. In this regard, they emphasized the need for joint and concerted efforts and cooperation among countries in the region to address the challenge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the dismantling of terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens and disrupting all financial and other support for terrorism.

The Leaders supported further promotion of a national reconciliation process led and guided by the Afghans themselves in compliance with established international principles. Russia and India reaffirmed their willingness to continue to provide multi-vector assistance to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the interest of maintaining stability and independence of Afghanistan, and assisting socio-economic development and connectivity of the country. The Leaders agreed to continue their close consultation and cooperation on Afghanistan.

The continuing growth of drug production and drug smuggling from Afghanistan is of particular concern. In this context, the importance of cooperation within the frameworks of the SCO, BRICS and the Paris Pact Initiative to counter the spread of narcotic substances was emphasized. The Leaders expressed mutual interest in coordinating Russian and Indian positions during the preparation for and the work of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem in 2016.

Looking Ahead

The Leaders reaffirmed the unique character of Russia-India relations, based on time-tested and deep mutual trust and friendship between the two nations. They noted with satisfaction the continued support among the people of both countries to further strengthen and expand the bilateral relationship. They emphasized the remarkable convergence in their foreign policy priorities and underlined the significance of their special and privileged strategic partnership for their respective countries both bilaterally and in addressing regional and global issues in the days ahead.





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

December 25, 2015

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to Afghanistan on Friday, 25 December 2015.

The Prime Minister held detailed discussions with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, and met the former President Hamid Karzai in Kabul.

President Mr. Ghani and Prime Minister Shri Modi jointly dedicated to the Afghan nation the National Assembly Building constructed under India-Afghanistan development cooperation. Addressing the Members of Meshrano Jirga and Wolesi Jirga on the occasion in the newly inaugurated premises, Prime Minister, Shri Modi complimented the people of Afghanistan and their elected representatives on consolidation of democracy in the country. He appreciated in this regard the contributions of former President Karzai and the National Unity Government of President Ghani and Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah, including by drawing on Afghanistan's rich diversity.

The Prime Minister profusely thanked the Government and the people of Afghanistan for the honour accorded to India by naming a block of National Assembly Building after the former Prime Minister of

but had also bestowed to the world precious legacy in trade routes, economy, art, architecture, religion, literature and music. They expressed their happiness that the India-Afghanistan relationship had blossomed in recent times with renewed vigor, vitality and a contemporary view.

President Mr. Ghani conveyed to Prime Minister Shri Modi that there is a historically huge reservoir of goodwill in Afghanistan for India. Prime Minister Shri Modi mentioned to the President that friendship, mutual respect and good neighbourliness form the solid foundation of the multi-dimensional ties between India and Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Shri Modi conveyed India's continued



India Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. He also assured the Government of Afghanistan of Indian assistance for a new Administrative Block of the National Assembly.

In their discussions, President Ghani and Prime Minister, Shri Modi stressed that the millennia-old ties between the two countries and their peoples had enriched not only their own history and culture

strong support for a united, democratic, sovereign, secure and prosperous Afghanistan.

President Mr. Ghani and Prime Minister Shri Modi recalled their earlier three meetings this year and expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the decisions taken in them to further develop all-round bilateral cooperation. President Ghani noted that India-Afghanistan partnership was helping

the transformation of Afghanistan by enabling empowerment of its society, reconstruction and development of Afghan economy and strengthening of its polity.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi and President Mr. Ghani discussed key aspects of utilisation of India's pledged assistance of over USD 2 billion for development in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister also assured the President that as always, India will continue to be guided by the priorities and requirements of the Government of Afghanistan, including priorities for reconstruction in Kunduz in the aftermath of the recent terrorist rampage. The two leaders noted with satisfaction that India-assisted projects including Doshi and Charikar sub-stations and India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam in Chishti Sharif, Herat were to be fully functional shortly. President Mr. Ghani apprised Prime Minister Shri Modi of the vast benefits to agriculture and the common man that will accrue from the Dam.

The two leaders welcomed the part played by over 100 completed and ongoing Small Development Projects (SDP) in creating community infrastructure at the local level. The Prime Minister conveyed that the total SDP outlay was envisaged to grow to USD 200M by 2020.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi also assured President

vocational and skill training. He also conveyed that the Government of India would additionally provide 500 scholarships for study of children of martyrs of Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces in reputed schools and colleges in India and Afghanistan.

Both the leaders directed the concerned officials to encourage suitable tie-ups between institutions of the two countries in higher learning, skills development, and science & technology.

Afghanistan welcomed the Indian government's role in encouragement for participation of Indian public and private sectors investment in Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed to further promote trade ties between the two countries. Afghanistan also praised the decision of the Indian Government to ease procedures for the Afghan businesspersons for trade and investment in India.

President Mr. Ghani welcomed the decision of India to start the setting up of Afghanistan National Institute of Mining and regulate exchange programs for training of mining sector experts based on the assessment of requirements. President Mr. Ghani also appreciated the setting up of the Kandahar Agriculture University and welcomed India's commitment in continuing its support for the capacity development of this important institution.



Ghani that India would expeditiously supply 170,000 tonnes of wheat to meet Afghanistan's urgent needs. Both the leaders decided that modalities for supply of 1000 new buses from India to Afghanistan will be developed.

Reiterating India's commitment to developing capacity in the areas of education and governance, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed his happiness that over 10,000 students from Afghanistan were engaged in studies in India. He conveyed that the existing scheme of 1,000 scholarships every year for Afghan students to study in India will be extended by another five years beyond 2017 with the possibility of one year

Referring to the next Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process to be hosted in India in 2016, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the significance India attaches to promoting connectivity for realising the shared vision of peace, progress and prosperity in the whole region. He specifically pointed out the benefits that will accrue to Afghanistan and all concerned from direct access for

Afghan goods and trucks to Indian territory including all Afghan commodities. Afghanistan reiterated that inclusion of India in the Afghanistan Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement would be advantageous for the whole region. Both leaders welcomed the ground breaking for the TAPI project.

In the context of promoting better connectivity for Afghanistan, the two leaders discussed prospects of trilateral cooperation in view of India's participation in development of Phase-I of Chahbahar Port in Iran. They directed their concerned officials to conclude discussions on trilateral agreement among Afghanistan, India and Iran in this regard.

President Mr. Ghani and Prime Minister Shri Modi emphasized that people-to-people interactions lay at the heart of the relationship between the two countries. They agreed that active work of India-Afghanistan Foundation would contribute to facilitating such interactions. They also concurred that exchanges between Parliamentarians and civil society



that contribute to mutual understanding and goodwill shall be encouraged.

Declaring his satisfaction with the Afghan Cricket Team being assigned a new 'Home Ground' at Greater NOIDA near Delhi, the Prime Minister welcomed the growing India-Afghanistan cooperation for necessary facilities and training to develop cricket in Afghanistan, and assured further encouragement to such efforts.

President Mr. Ghani and Prime Minister Shri Modi decided that the bilateral Strategic Partnership Council, co-chaired by Foreign Ministers, shall meet in the first quarter of 2016 to review implementation of the decisions of the two leaders, following meetings of four Joint Working Groups of the Council. The two leaders also highlighted the significance of the 6 agreements that will be signed between the two countries shortly.

President Mr. Ghani and Prime Minister Shri Modi exchanged views on the security situation in Afghanistan, which faces serious challenges of terrorism, extremism and narcotics. Strongly condemning the barbaric incidents of terrorism in Afghanistan in recent months, the two leaders reiterated that peace in Afghanistan required elimination of terrorism perpetrated and supported from sanctuaries and safe havens. Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed deep admiration of the people of India for their brave Afghan brothers and sisters in combatting all forms of terrorism at great cost to themselves.

Prime Minister Shri Modi reiterated India's full support to Afghanistan for strengthening its defensive capabilities for preserving Afghanistan's unity and territorial integrity and ensuring security. In this context, the two leaders pointed out that the Mi-25 helicopters provided by the Indian Government to Afghanistan and their maintenance facility would address an important requirement. They agreed to increase and expand training opportunities for Afghan National Security and Defence Forces in relevant Indian institutions, based on the requirements of Afghanistan.

The two leaders agreed that groups and individuals that perpetrate violence on the people of Afghanistan and challenge by use of violence and terror against the Government of Afghanistan cannot be allowed to exercise control or wield influence over any part of Afghanistan's territory in any manner whatsoever, as that would pose serious risks to the gains of the last nearly one and half decades, and renew those very threats against which the people of Afghanistan and international community had resolutely fought and made great sacrifices.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi strongly supported Afghan government-led reconciliation process which respects the redlines drawn by the people of Afghanistan and the international community, i.e., the groups and individuals to be reconciled must give up violence and abide by the Constitution of Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister thanked President Ghani and the concerned Afghan authorities for ensuring safety of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, the four Consulates General of India in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat & Mazar-e-Sharif, and Indian nationals in Afghanistan, including those working on various development projects.

India welcomed the decision of the Government of Afghanistan to open a new Consulate General in the city of Hyderabad to further strengthen their historical ties.

President Ghani accepted the invitation of Prime Minister, Shri Modi to visit India. Mutually convenient dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.





Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, makes surprise visit to Pakistan

December 25, 2015

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, made a surprise visit to Pakistan on December 25, 2015, his first such trip as Prime Minister to Pakistan.

The previously unannounced visit is a potential sign of thawing relations between the two neighbours. Two heads of Government also had an unscheduled meeting at the Paris Climate Change talks.

Shri Narendra Modi landed in the eastern city of Lahore and met with his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif.

Security was beefed up at the Lahore International Airport shortly before Shri Narendra Modi's arrival.

After spending about two hours with Prime Minister Shri Modi at his residence, Prime Minister Mr. Sharif went to the Lahore airport along with Shri Modi to see him off.

Prime Minister, Mr. Sharif and Prime Minister, Shri Modi held a meeting in a "cordial and positive atmosphere" and they agreed to continue working for the welfare of people of their countries.

Analysts viewed the visit as a potential turning point in Pakistani-Indian relations.

"I think it is going to play a significant role in improving

ties between the two South Asian archrivals," said Shri Amanullah Memon, a professor of international relations at Preston University in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

Shri Amitabh Matto, an Indian foreign policy expert, described Shri Modi's birthday diplomacy visit as a "very positive step."

"Any step toward trying to stabilize and provide a new beginning to India-Pakistan ties is welcome and needs to be supported by all those who believe that India and Pakistan have a common destiny and it is in their interest to fight together their common problems, including terrorism and economic underdevelopment," he said.

Shri Tarun Vijay, a spokesman for Prime Minister, Shri Modi's Bharatiya Janata party, praised Shri Modi's visit as a sign of statesmanship. "This is the best Christmas gift to the mankind which believes in peace and amity. He has risen to the commanding heights of being a statesman who can take a bold step surprising his friends and foes but melting ice in the relations," Shri Vijay said

However Prime Minister, Shri Modi faced criticism from the main Indian opposition Congress Party as well.

"Heads of state don't drop in to give Christmas or



birthday greetings, particularly when you have such a history of complex issues between the two countries. It should have been a proper structured state visit. We would have welcomed it," Shri Anand Sharma, a Congress Party spokesman said.

Members of the Indian Youth Congress in New Delhi also staged a protest against the visit, during which they burned an effigy of Shri Modi.

After a year of rising tensions, top security officials from India and Pakistan held talks in Thailand's capital earlier in December, discussing a range of issues, including Kashmir and ways to maintain peace along the countries' shared border. Also, two weeks ago, Indian External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Pakistan to attend a meeting on Afghanistan.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training insurgents fighting for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan, a charge Islamabad denies. More than 68,000 people have been killed in ongoing Kashmir violence, which began in 1989.

A cease-fire along the so-called "line of control" that serves as the border between Indian and Pakistani-held Kashmir has largely held since 2003, but cross-border firing and minor skirmishes are fairly common, with each side routinely blaming the other.

Mr. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a key separatist leader in the Indian portion of Kashmir, said: "It's a welcome step. We hope that it is followed by a consistent policy of engagement to resolve the Kashmir dispute. India and Pakistan have to evolve a mechanism to involve the core party to the issue -- that is the Kashmiri people."

India also wants Pakistan to bring to justice Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, the alleged mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks that killed 168 people. Saeed lives openly in Pakistan and often appears on TV interviews; the government claims it lacks the evidence to charge him.





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

November 23, 2015

At the invitation of The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi undertook an Official Visit to Malaysia on 23 November 2015. Earlier, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit on 21-22 November 2015. The two Prime Ministers held official talks in Putrajaya and jointly inaugurated the Torana Gate in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, a gift from India to Malaysia, as a symbol of India-Malaysia Friendship.

During the official talks, which was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, the two Prime Ministers acknowledged that India-Malaysia relations have made impressive strides in recent years. The dialogue mechanisms at Ministerial and Official level, supported by a wide range of agreements have also provided a framework to harness the full potential of the Strategic Partnership, established between the two countries in October 2010.

Both leaders also conveyed their condolences to the families of all those on board Malaysian Airlines flight MH 370. In this context, the Prime Minister of Malaysia recalled with appreciation the ready assistance provided by India in the search operations through the deployment of six ships and seven aircraft, including at Subang airbase in Malaysia.

The two leaders welcomed the increasing two-way tourist movement and recalled the close cultural and religious affinity of the people of the two countries, including the presence of a large Indian community in Malaysia, which is a positive factor in fostering and developing current and future linkages to imbue greater dynamism to the friendly relations between Malaysia and India.

Recalling their stake in promoting multiculturalism, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to democracy, pluralism and development.

The two leaders acknowledged the contribution made by Malaysia and India in promoting growth, economic development and stability in the Asia-Pacific region,

and recognized each other's responsibility in the promotion of peace, development and security of the region, and beyond, based on a convergence of political and socio-economic interests and aspirations.

The two Prime Ministers, while expressing satisfaction with the progress of bilateral relations over the years, reaffirmed their determination to take the Strategic Partnership between the two countries to the next level by deepening existing areas and exploring new areas of cooperation.

Both Prime Ministers then witnessed the signing of one Agreement on Cultural Exchange Programme for 2015-2020 and two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Project Delivery and Monitoring, and Cooperation on Cyber Security.



In an effort to further broaden and deepen the relationship between the two countries, both leaders agreed to proceed with efforts to develop the Strategic Partnership between the two countries as follows:

Political Consultation

To hold regular Summits, including on the margins of multilateral events;



To arrange the next meeting of the Joint Commission headed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries, with the next meeting in New Delhi in the first half of 2016;

To arrange regular exchanges at the Cabinet level between the Ministers in charge of Trade & Industry, Transport, Public Works and Infrastructure, in line with the new developmental initiatives introduced by India, and the investment and trade opportunities opening up in each other's country;

To hold regular Foreign Office Consultations between the Senior Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and the Ministry of External Affairs of India, to enable both countries to monitor the progress of bilateral cooperation, including on regional and strategic issues of mutual interest;

Reaffirmed their continued commitment to Parliamentary democracy and to promote further cooperation between the Parliaments of both countries, and underlined the importance of regular and enhanced exchange of visits between Parliamentarians from India and Malaysia;

Economic, Trade and Financial Areas

Reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation, and to deepen and widen their economic engagement, which has emerged as an important fulcrum of the strategic partnership;

Underlined the importance of holding regular meeting of the Ministers of Trade and Industry of both countries;

To promote joint collaboration, especially in infrastructure and construction sectors, and to facilitate joint projects and collaboration between the private sectors of the two countries, in line with the new developmental and business initiatives undertaken by India, such as the Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities and Skill Development that offered significant investment opportunities for Malaysian businesses. The Prime Minister of India conveyed the steps being taken by the Government of India to provide a conducive environment for investors, and

invited Malaysian investors to participate in economic activities for the mutual benefits of both countries;

Recognising the need to energise the activities of the high-level India-Malaysia CEOs' Forum, called upon the CEOs' Forum to develop specific recommendations to enhance business links in priority areas. They further urged the CEOs' Forum to meet bi-annually and in a timely manner to ensure meaningful follow-up and implementation of recommendations;

Welcomed further contributions of Malaysian and Indian-owned financial institutions in both jurisdictions, which reflects the growing economic and financial linkages between the two countries;

Commended the contribution of IRCON over the past two decades on railway cooperation in Malaysia, and welcomed IRCON's significant interest to participate in railway project in the future;

Encouraged public and private sector companies from both countries to pro-actively look at large investment opportunities at each other's country. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the significant interest shown by Malaysian companies to partake in the business opportunities provided by India and their aspiration to invest in infrastructure projects;

Welcomed the contribution of Indian investment in Malaysia, in particular India IT firms, especially those located in Cyberjaya, and agreed to continue to promote greater engagement of Indian IT companies in Malaysia;

Defence and Security

Agreed to enhance defence exchanges through regular dialogue at various levels, including between the Defence Ministers, senior defence officials, Chiefs of the Armed Services and through Service-to-Service Staff Talks;

Agreed to convene the next India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation Meeting at Defence Secretary/Secretary General level;

Welcomed the outcome of the joint exercises HARIMAU



SHAKTI and to upgrade the exercises to company level, and subsequently to tri-services exercises;

Agreed to set up the SU-30 Forum for cooperation in training, maintenance, technical support and safety-related issues, building on the assistance by India for successful completion of the SU 30 MKM training programme by Indian pilots in Malaysia;

Further agreed to promote joint collaboration on projects of mutual interest in the defence sector including in the areas of defence equipment and industry, research, training and capacity building;

Agreed to institute annual talks between the Heads of the Indian Coast Guards and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency including during Head of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM).

Agreed to establish mechanism for sharing of information, including for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster relief (HADR) and white shipping;

Agreed to establish linkages between the Centre for UN Peacekeeping of India (CUNPK) and Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre (MPC);

Expressed strong condemnation for terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and called upon all States to reject terrorism and bring perpetrators of terrorism to justice. In this context, they welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the two countries on counter terrorism and agreed to further enhance cooperation in this direction;

Agreed to continue sharing of information and best practices to address the challenges posed by terrorism, and other traditional and non-traditional threats;

Reaffirmed that the two countries share a mutual interest in cooperating for peace, prosperity and security of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond;

Agreed to discuss further with a view to conclude the signing of the MoU on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners, which act as an important humanitarian gesture towards sentenced prisoners;

Tourism and Education

Acknowledged the success of the Festival of India in Malaysia 2015, supported by the Malaysian Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Indian Ministry of Culture and the Indian High Commission, and held for the first time in all major cities and States of Malaysia;

Reaffirming their desire to promote greater opportunities for students to pursue their higher studies in each other's country, agreed to conclude a MoU on mutual recognition of Universities and degrees between India and Malaysia at the earliest;

Welcomed the additional contribution by India of Indian Rupees 50 million to the Indian Scholarship Trust Fund, managed by the High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur, which has been operating since 1954 for deserving Malaysian Indian students;

Welcomed the renaming of the Indian Cultural Centre in Kuala Lumpur as "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre";

Human Resources

Welcomed the contribution of Indian workers to the Malaysian economy;

To further enhance mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in the field of labour through Joint Working Group Meeting, as well as exchanges of visits and information on latest policies, laws and regulations;

Health

Recognising the need to promote greater cooperation between the two countries in Ayurveda and other Indian systems of traditional medicine, Malaysia welcomed the deputation of an Ayurveda practitioner and two therapists from India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme. The two sides also welcomed the gift of a Shirodara Yantra machine from the Government of India to Malaysia;

Agreed to receive a Siddha practitioner from India to Malaysia under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme;



Science and Technology

Sustainable Energy development has been a key component towards achieving energy security in the future with both Malaysia and India having actively pursued to increase renewable energy sources so as to strengthen their energy security while increasing energy access. Noting that, both sides agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on New and Renewable Energy at the earliest that would serve as a good platform for both countries to exchange ideas and forge mutually beneficial collaboration;

Public Administration

Noted the excellent ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, India and Public Service Department, Malaysia under the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance. Following the 3rd Joint Working Group Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 28–30 September 2015, both sides will work on implementing the decisions made in the Meeting for fostering cooperation in English language training, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), e-governance, training institute collaboration, retirement benefits management, taxation data and business intelligence, and project implementation and oversight;

Welcomed the proposal for both sides to establish cooperation in areas of performance management, project delivery and monitoring;

Welcomed the conclusion of the Bilateral Work Agreement between Malaysia and India that authorise spouses of diplomatic agents and members of the administrative and technical staff of diplomatic missions and spouses of consular officers at consular posts for employment in the respective receiving State on a reciprocal basis;

Regional and International Cooperation

Reaffirming the importance of strategic engagement of India in regional initiatives to shape an open, transparent and inclusive regional order and ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture, welcomed the enhanced relations between ASEAN and India, especially since the elevation of the partnership to a strategic status at the ASEAN–India Commemorative Summit in 2012 in New Delhi;

Welcomed the adoption by ASEAN and India of the new Plan of Action (2016-2020) to implement the ASEAN–India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity at the ASEAN–India Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 5 August 2015;

Welcomed the successful holding of the 27th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, and further

welcomed the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together;

Welcomed the signing of the ASEAN–India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements, and took note of the progress towards finalising the Regional Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Partnership (RCEP) Agreement;

Stressed that the 70th anniversary of the United Nations is an occasion to urge for early reforms of the United Nations, including the reform of the UN Security Council. Malaysia took note of India's aspiration for permanent membership of a reformed United Nations Security Council; and

Welcomed the post-2015 Development Agenda adopted by the United Nations with eradication of poverty by 2030 as its core objective.

The Prime Minister of India expressed his appreciation to the Prime Minister of Malaysia for the warm reception and hospitality extended to him and his delegation for the visit, and invited the Malaysian Prime Minister to undertake another visit to India at a mutually convenient date, which was accepted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia.



Indian Housing Project on verge of completion in the Northern and Eastern Provinces

The Indian Housing Project, under which 46,000 houses are to be constructed or repaired in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and 4,000 houses constructed in the Central and Uva Provinces, is nearing completion in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. As on 31 December 2015, a total of 43,800 houses have been completed. During 2015, 13,827 new houses were constructed in the Northern Province, and 2,051 in the Eastern Province. In addition, 502 damaged houses were repaired in the Northern Province. Only 2,200 houses remain to be constructed or repaired in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which is expected to be completed during the next few months.

In June 2010, the Government of India announced that it would construct 50,000 houses in Sri Lanka as part of post-conflict rehabilitation efforts. The Project is being implemented as full grant assistance amounting to USD 270 million (approximately SLR 30 billion) from the Government of India, making it one of the largest grant assistance projects ever undertaken by India overseas.

Under the pilot phase of the Project, which was completed in July 2012, the Government of India entrusted an agency to construct 1,000 houses in the Northern Province. An innovative owner-driven model is being pursued to implement the second phase to construct 45,000 houses in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, wherein the Government of India arranges technical support and financial assistance for the owner-beneficiaries to undertake the construction / repair of their houses themselves. Financial assistance

of SLR 550,000 per beneficiary (SLR 250,000 in case of repair cases) is released in stages, and transferred directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries by the High Commission of India. 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 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.



High Commissioner's Address at the Inauguration Ceremony of the 36th National Conference of Chartered Accountants

November 04, 2015



Mr. Arjuna Herath, President, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka),

Mr Aruna Alwis, CEO, CA Sri Lanka,

Mr. Heshana Kuruppu, Chairman, National Conference Committee,

Prof. Rajendra Srivastava, LKCSB Chair in Marketing Strategy and International Business at the Singapore Management University and the Keynote Speaker,

Mr. Nandika Buddhipala, Chairman, National Conference Technical Committee,

Mr. Lasantha Wickremasinghe, Vice President, CA Sri Lanka,

Distinguished Guests,

1. I consider it an honour and a privilege to be invited to speak at the inauguration of the 36th National Conference of Chartered Accountants organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. Thank you for inviting me to this prestigious event. The theme of this conference: "Collaborate to Compete" is most apt. In an increasingly globalised world, linkages cutting across ethnicities, national boundaries and professional competencies are being assiduously cultivated and collaborations and partnerships actively pursued and nurtured. Countries are coming together to form bilateral, regional and multilateral arrangements to optimise benefits. Similarly, corporations are joining hands to pool their resources and synergies to operate more efficiently and effectively. In other words, collaboration and cooperation have become mantras for success rather than confrontation and conflict. This is how it should be.

2. India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been on the move. The new Government has embarked on a path of all round inclusive development in the last one and a half years. To give a few examples, from the flagship 'Make in

India' initiative to the task of providing public toilets in all schools, no part of the economy has been left untouched. The 'Jan Dhan' scheme has targeted financial inclusion through opening of bank accounts, the 'Swachh Bharat' Mission has been started to ensure health and hygiene. A Skills Development Ministry has been set up to ensure employability of youth, jobs for whom would come through initiatives such as Make in India. The Government is working with all State Governments in adopting a pan-India GST for simplifying the tax structure. Once implemented this would also positively impact Sri Lankan exports to India. Another important initiative is the 100 Smart Cities project which aims at rejuvenation of the urban landscape in India. The Prime Minister also recently launched an initiative called "Digital India". Digital connectivity is an area which has immense potential and Sri Lanka could be a partner in this effort and gain from advances made in the digital world.

3. India is pursuing a re-invigorated neighbourhood policy of "Neighbourhood First" which puts a premium on greater connectivity, stronger and mutually beneficial cooperation and deeper ties with its neighbours. There is also recognition that neighbours have a first claim on India and Sri Lanka is amongst our closest and dearest neighbours. India and Sri Lanka have experienced an exhilarating renewal of democracy in recent times. People have reposed their faith in visions that seek to fulfill demands for change and promote social and economic development. This has become the crucible for measuring the success of pluralistic democracies globally, as compared to the ephemeral advances made under authoritarian regimes that do not always represent the aspirations of their citizens.

4. To return to the theme of your conference, 'Collaborate to Compete'. Countries are increasingly collaborating in regional and multi-lateral fora to protect their interests, optimise their strategies, negotiate from a position of comparative advantage and enjoy the shared benefits

of such cooperation.

5. The most recent example of such collaboration in the international fora is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). In October 2015, 12 countries announced conclusion of their negotiations to arrive at a partnership, that will have a significant impact on global trade and on investments. A diverse group of countries have chosen to collaborate for mutual benefit and thereby enhance their collective competitive advantage. This begets the question: How do countries like India, Sri Lanka, and other countries in the region, who are not part of TPP, compete and safeguard their interests? I am not an economist and hence it would be remiss of me to try and provide a detailed answer. However, common sense would indicate that we need to ensure that our region develops in a cooperative framework. One way would be to energise existing regional organisations such as SAARC, BIMSTEC and IORA in order to build on our strengths and complementarities. Such collaboration would enable us to compete more effectively.

6. India and Sri Lanka have a rich history of cooperation and collaboration. Our relationship that predates recorded history has been built on a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious, linguistic and commercial interaction. In recent years, the relationship has been marked by close contacts at the highest political level, growing trade and investment, cooperation in areas including development, health, agriculture, education, culture etc. Some recent instances of India-Sri Lanka collaboration include the bilateral free trade agreement that was signed in 1988 and came into effect in 2000. Bilateral trade has increased more than 10 times since the coming into force of the FTA. In addition, India has a development partnership with Sri Lanka amounting to around US\$ 2.6 billion, of which around US\$ 436 million are outright grants. India has focused on a consultative and responsive model of cooperation aimed at livelihood restoration, capacity building, human resource development as well as infrastructure development. In this respect we are guided by the Government and people of Sri Lanka. This is a collaboration that has achieved excellent results as it is based on and dovetailed with the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka.

7. Collaboration in other areas is also envisaged. During the visit of President Sirisena to India in February this year, an agreement was signed on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which is an area with immense potential for cooperation, particularly in the field of medicine. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Sri Lanka in March 2015 announced a new Line of Credit amounting to US\$ 318 million for the railway sector in Sri Lanka. When Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe visited India in September 2015, both countries signed an agreement for a satellite for the SAARC region. Sri Lanka was the first country in the SAARC region to sign this agreement.

8. Collaboration on connectivity, both virtual and physical, between our two countries, would be of mutual

benefit. We are working towards resumption of ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and between Talaimannar and Rameshwaram, which will make travel easier. There is also a proposal to operate a cruise/ferry service between Colombo and Kochi in Kerala. Already India and Sri Lanka enjoy close connectivity by air with 150 flights a week from Colombo to eight destinations in India. I look forward to a time when a passenger can board a train in Kataragama in southern Sri Lanka and travel to Srinagar, a city founded by Emperor Ashoka, in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir by train and ferry. With the aim of further increasing tourism between the two countries, the first meeting of the JWG on Tourism was held in April 2015 at New Delhi where developing a Ramayana Trail in Sri Lanka and a Buddhist Circuit in India was discussed. India also stands ready to assist Sri Lanka in the upgradation of infrastructure, particularly in the North and the East. This could serve as a platform for enhancing connectivity in the future.

9. The India-Sri Lanka relationship is vibrant and robust and is poised for a quantum leap by building on the rich legacy of historical linkages and a strong economic and commercial underpinning that provides a platform for enhanced engagement.

10. Given our mutual synergies, our economic ties should be upgraded to the next level to go beyond trade in goods. The services sector is increasingly accounting for a significant portion of the GDP of both our countries and needs to be tapped. Another area with immense potential is education. In recent years, India has been attracting a growing number of Sri Lankan students for tertiary education, and offers a more affordable alternative to other countries without compromising on quality. Prominent Indian institutions of excellence are interested in investing in Sri Lanka, provided the necessary legislative framework is put in place.

11. Leading Indian companies have established a strong investment presence in Sri Lanka with FDI flows from India to Sri Lanka standing at nearly US\$ 1 billion since 2003. The total FDI commitment by Indian firms for the next three to five years is more than US\$ 1.2 billion. During his visit to Sri Lanka in August 2012, the then Commerce and Industry Minister of India had put forward a proposal to address the trade imbalance between India and Sri Lanka through creation of additional export capacity in Sri Lanka. Setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) with focus on light engineering and automobile components through joint ventures were envisaged. The establishment of a manufacturing hub for pharmaceuticals was also discussed. In this era of closer economic integration Sri Lanka needs to plug into the supply chains in a rapidly developing economy next door. Today's papers quote the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as stating that India's growth is a bright spot for the Sri Lankan economy. It is important that Sri Lanka takes advantage of its inherent advantages of proximity and entrepreneurial zeal and becomes a partner in the India growth story.

12. Some years ago, the largest car manufacturer in India had expressed interest in establishing a vehicle assembly plant in Sri Lanka. The proposal also envisaged the establishment of ancillary automobile component manufacturing units. The setting up of such a plant would have resulted in creation of jobs as well as saving of precious foreign exchange for Sri Lanka. I understand that in the period January – August 2015, Sri Lanka imported nearly US\$ 350 million worth of vehicles and auto-components from India, almost 15.5% of the total Sri Lankan imports from India. Had the proposal been approved, the picture could have been different. We look forward to new policy initiatives that the Government of Sri Lanka plans to undertake. The Prime Minister's speech in Parliament tomorrow and the budget later in the month will hopefully pave the way for greater trade and investments.

13. The Government of Sri Lanka wants to develop Trincomalee into a regional petroleum hub. India will be happy to partner Sri Lanka in this regard. India and Sri Lanka have also been discussing the possibility of trading in energy taking into account availability of power in both countries as well as patterns of consumption. Trade in electricity would also help bridge the trade deficit. India and Sri Lanka have enjoyed strong historical maritime links. At present, Colombo Port is a leading container trans-shipment hub for India. It has been estimated that almost 30% of India's transshipment cargo passes through Colombo Port, which accounts for nearly 70% of the total transshipment business handled by Colombo Port. In view of the importance of Colombo Port to India, Indian companies need to become stakeholders in the expansion of Colombo Port.

14. Let me also point out that India is aware of the concerns raised by Sri Lankan businessmen regarding problems of access to Indian markets, which are seen as impediments to expansion of trade ties. Concerns regarding NTBs being faced by Sri Lankan exporters have been taken up in bilateral discussions including at the third Commerce Secretary level talks which took place in Colombo in March 2015. These issues are under examination and both sides are striving to resolve them. An Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters was signed by both countries in March 2015. This would increase coordination between the customs authorities of both countries.

15. While India wants to expand cooperation with Sri Lanka, we are sensitive to the need to move at a pace at which Sri Lanka is comfortable with in terms of opening new areas. Asymmetric arrangements that preclude strict reciprocity, are already in place and will be further expanded as India grows at a rapid pace. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Sri Lanka was negotiated in a manner that meets these objectives. CEPA sought to go beyond the FTA and extend coverage to areas such as trade in services, investment, deepen coverage of trade in goods and enhance economic cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. The proposed agreement

recognized asymmetries of the two economies and accordingly, differential treatment was built into the draft. Thus, under the Agreement, India had committed to a bigger reduction in its negative list, larger and deeper opening in the service sector, and larger schedule of commitments in investment. Under Mode 4, which pertains to movement of natural persons, Sri Lanka was to open only two sectors, computer and related services for expert trainees and related staff and maintenance and repairs of seagoing vessels, for naval architects, skilled welders and fitters etc., whereas India was to open many more sectors (twelve sectors and eighty sub-sectors) upfront and grant more concessions in each of these areas. The idea was to allow Sri Lanka sufficient time to gain experience and confidence before venturing into wider openings. CEPA also had provisions to address perceived problems of Sri Lankan exporters to India. A Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) formed part of the CEPA. Some agreements that formed part of the CEPA such as the Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and the Customs Cooperation Agreement have already been concluded separately.

16. I would like to once again stress that despite what naysayers might profess, in view of our complementarities, enhanced economic cooperation between India and Sri Lanka has distinct advantages and would strengthen the competitiveness of both countries. However, opportunities need to be seized when they arise, and not squandered due to misperceptions and narrow political agendas.

17. During his visit to India last month, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe proposed concluding a bilateral Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement by next year. We welcome the stress laid by the Prime Minister in boosting cooperation in technology which reflects the importance Sri Lanka attaches to further cooperation and collaboration with India in this important field. Both sides need to engage intensively to realize the vision of our leaders.

18. We need to take full advantage of our mutual synergies. We require a neighbourhood where trade, investment, ideas and people move easily across borders. Markets need to be more integrated. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated while addressing the business community in Colombo in March 2015, India's progress gives us the ability to create opportunities for our neighbours. We will be supportive in advancing Sri Lanka's commercial interests. We believe in Sri Lanka's capabilities. We should move boldly to enhance our economic and commercial engagement. India and Sri Lanka should wholeheartedly collaborate to fulfill the potential of our bilateral relations and the aspirations of our peoples.

19. I once again thank CA Sri Lanka for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion and wish all the participants in the 36th National Conference of Chartered Accountants all the very best.

Inauguration of Government of India funded Language Lab in Jaffna

December 10, 2015

Shri Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India, Mr. V.S. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble State Minister of Education of Sri Lanka, and Justice C.V. Wigneswaran, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Northern Province of Sri Lanka, jointly inaugurated an English Language Lab in Kopay, Jaffna on December 10, 2015 at a function held at Jaffna National College of Education. Mr. A. Natarajan, Consul General of India-Jaffna, Mr. Muralidharan, Director, Tamil Schools Development of Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka, and other senior officials were also present during the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble State Minister recalled the relationship that India and Sri Lanka enjoyed from time immemorial. He thanked the Government of India for its continuous assistance to Sri Lanka and requested more support in the field of education and skills development.

In his address, while welcoming Government of India's grant assistance, the Chief Minister stated that the language lab would improve the English language skills of the students of the North, who were deprived of opportunities to learn English earlier due to prolonged internal conflict.

High Commissioner, Shri Y. K Sinha briefly outlined the projects that are currently under implementation by the Government of India including the Indian Housing Project, renovation of Duraipappah stadium in Jaffna, construction of cultural centre in Jaffna, establishment of Faculties of Agriculture and Engineering at the Kilinochchi campus, University of Jaffna, and procurement of medical equipment for the 200 bed ward complex in Vavuniya. On Indian Housing Project to construct 50000 houses, he updated that a total of 40700 houses has been completed till date.

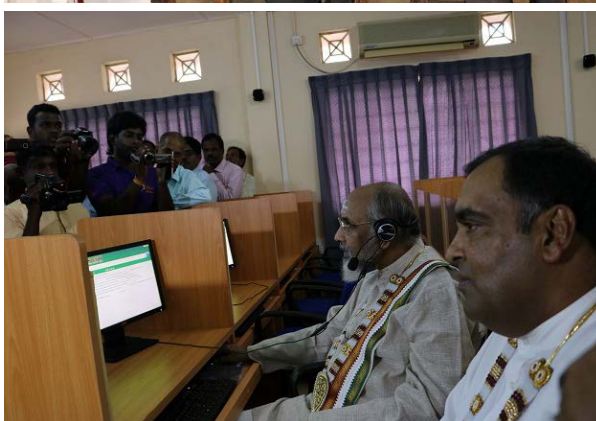
This Language Lab is one of the nine labs that the Government of India has set up in each of the nine provinces of Sri Lanka. Six language labs in Gampaha (Western Province), Kandy (Central Province), Bingiriya (North Western Province) and Adalaichenai (Eastern Province), Matara (Southern Province) and Badulla (Uva Province) have already been inaugurated. Other locations where Language Labs have been set up are Polonnaruwa (North Central Province) and Ratnapura (Sabaragamuwa Province).

The project has been implemented as part of an MoU



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

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



Inauguration of India Corner at Jaffna Public Library

December 11, 2015

An "India Corner" at the Jaffna Public Library was inaugurated on December 11, 2015 by the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka, Shri Y.K. Sinha, Hon'ble Governor of Northern Province, Mr. H. M. G. S. Palihakkara, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Northern Province, Mr. C. V. Wigneswaran.

The "India Corner" has been set up in partnership with the Jaffna Municipal Council, with the objective of offering access to a variety of books, DVDs, periodicals and other entertainment material to the people of Jaffna. The "India Corner" would house books procured from India, mainly in Tamil language, on Indian history, cultural heritage, fiction, children's books, mythology, Indian leaders, philosophers, Tamil art and culture.

The launch of the "India Corner" is a major step in further cementing India's cultural relationship with the people of Jaffna. It would serve as a window of the life and culture of the people of India for the people of Jaffna.



Commemoration of “Constitution Day”

November 26, 2015

The Constituent Assembly of India adopted a new Indian Constitution on November 26, 1949. To commemorate the constitution making process in India and the role of members of the Constituent Assembly, particularly the Chairman of the drafting committee, the late Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, India has decided to observe November 26 every year as “Constitution Day”.

A commemorative event was organized by the High Commission of India, Colombo on November 26, 2015 at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies. Hon’ble Dr. Jayampathy Wickremaratne, Member of Parliament, delivered a lecture titled “The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution: Some Issues of Relevance”.

In his opening remarks, High Commissioner of India, Shri Y.K. Sinha, emphasized that the Indian Constitution is a dynamic document that has been seen as a beacon in independent India’s history. He spoke about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s deep contribution to the process of making of the Indian Constitution in his capacity as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The High Commissioner also read out from the Preamble, delineating the cardinal features and objectives of the Indian Constitution. While touching upon the detailed and inclusive process leading to the drafting of the Indian Constitution, the High Commissioner highlighted features that make the Indian Constitution truly remarkable.

Dr. Wickremaratne described the process leading to the framing of the Indian Constitution. He detailed the composition of the Constituent Assembly and the efforts to make it a representative body. He talked about the main features of the Indian Constitution and the ideals enshrined in it. Dr. Wickremaratne explained the procedure for amendment of the Indian Constitution and using various judgments of Indian courts, expanded on the concept of unalterable basic structure of the Indian Constitution and its supremacy. He also spoke on Constitution-making in Sri Lanka and expounded on the essentials that a new Sri Lankan Constitution should possess.

Hon’ble Leader of the Opposition, several senior Ministers and Members of Parliament, Governor of Western Province, Chief Minister of Eastern Province, civil society representatives, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and other distinguished guests attended the function.



Inauguration of Government of India funded Mahatma Gandhi International Centre at Matale

November 22, 2015

His Excellency Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, and High Commissioner of India, Shri Y. K. Sinha inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Centre in Matale on November 22, 2015. Hon'ble Minister of Sports, Mr. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Hon'ble State Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Wasantha Aluvihare, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries, Mr. Laxman Wasantha Perera, Hon'ble Governor of Central Province, Ms. Surangani Ellawela, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Central Province, Mr. Sarath Ekanayake, Hon'ble Members of Parliament representing Matale, the Mayor of Matale, Mr Hilmy Mohamed, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy, Ms. Radha Venkataraman, members of the Mahatma Gandhi Sabha, Matale and other distinguished guests participated in the inauguration ceremony.

In his remarks, President Sirisena, while thanking the Government of India for funding the Mahatma Gandhi International Centre in Matale, and for various projects in different parts of the Sri Lanka, highlighted the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to humanity and the continuing relevance of his principles and philosophy to mankind. The President spoke at length about the strong and abiding links between Sri Lanka and India and the people of both countries, based on centuries of spiritual, cultural, linguistic and economic interaction. He referred to the shared religious links between the two countries, with both Buddhism and Hinduism coming to Sri Lanka from India.

Speaking at the ceremony, the High Commissioner thanked the President and other dignitaries for sparing their invaluable time to attend the inauguration

ceremony. The presence of President Sirisena was a manifestation of the reverence and esteem in which Mahatma Gandhi is held by the Government and people of Sri Lanka. The Mahatma Gandhi International Centre, which was built at a cost of SLR 88.6 million, was funded under the Government of India's Development Cooperation Partnership with Sri Lanka. He indicated that the overall assistance of Government of India to Sri Lanka amounts to USD 2.6 billion, out of which USD 436 million is through full grant assistance. High Commissioner highlighted a number of projects undertaken by the Government of India, including the flagship Indian housing project, under which more than 39,500 out of a total of 50,000 houses have been completed. He conveyed his best wishes to the Mahatma Gandhi Sabha and the people of Matale on the inauguration of the Mahatma Gandhi International Centre in Matale.

The Urban Development Authority of Government of Sri Lanka was the consultant for the project. The Mahatma Gandhi International Centre consists of an auditorium, library, meditation centre and a conference hall. The Centre provides a platform to reinforce the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, promote harmony among different communities and to enrich the lives of people through meditation and yoga. It can also be used as a resource centre for cultural activities and for the youth to enhance their knowledge in various fields through seminars, workshops and conferences.





SANGAM
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
SRI LANKA 2015-2016

Inauguration of Sangam: Festival of India in Sri Lanka, 2015 - 2016

November 19, 2015

Sangam: Festival of India in Sri Lanka, 2015-2016 was inaugurated in Colombo on November 19, 2015. The inaugural event, a mosaic of Indian dance forms, "Nriyarupe", was held at the Nelum Pokuna theatre.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Hon'ble Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka. Prominent guests included Hon'ble Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament, many Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament. Other invitees included senior officials from Government Ministries, a cross section of businessmen, cultural and media personalities, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Indian community and students. Over 1000 guests enjoyed the scintillating performance followed by a reception.



Nriyarupe, a medley of classical dances from different regions of India, enthralled the audience as the dancers performed in complete harmony and yet showcasing the distinctive dance forms of different parts of the country. The music and the choreography added to the electric atmosphere.

Nriyarupe was also held in Kandy on November 21, 2015 at the Hindu Cultural Hall, and in Galle on November 23, 2015 at Hall de Galle.





High Commissioner's remarks at the Annual Research Symposium of the University of Colombo, 2015

October 26, 2015

Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor,
University of Colombo
Dr. Sampath Seneviratne, Chairman, Annual Research
Symposium 2015
Professor Anthony Anghie, Professor of Law at the
University of Utah
Professors and Students of University of Colombo,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be present today at the Annual Research Symposium-2015 of the University of Colombo. Knowledge creation based on empirical research and critical analysis is the hallmark of any knowledge-based society. Hence, encouraging research and enquiry is incumbent on every institution of higher learning and excellence.

You would agree that in recent years, innovation has moved to the centre stage as the main driver of economic growth. Research statistics are an important policy planning tool for industrialized countries, emerging economies and developing countries alike. Unfortunately, the availability of these statistics for developing countries is still uneven. Earlier, research activities used to be largely funded by the Government but now new sources of funding are available. Foundations, scientific associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an important role. In addition, the contribution of private enterprise is becoming more important and gaining traction in a number of developing countries.

Keeping in view these trends, this symposium hosted by the University of Colombo is significant since it encourages research and enquiry in Sri Lanka. This forum provides an opportunity for academic interaction, to exchange ideas, debate hypotheses and broaden our knowledge base. The salience of the eight broad disciplines of education, fine arts, humanities, law, management, medicine, sciences and graduate studies, subjects for this symposium, cannot be over-emphasized.

In India, while there are various institutes of excellence in diverse fields that encourage a spirit of enquiry and empirical research, the Government has taken several steps to promote the R&D sector. A National

Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has been established to enhance involvement of entrepreneurs and researchers to foster scientific innovation. With the Government's support, the R&D sector in India is all set to witness robust growth in the coming years.

According to a study by a management consulting firm, Zinnov, the engineering R&D market in India is estimated to grow at 14 per cent to reach US\$ 42 billion by 2020. Most of the global MNCs are transferring their R & D units to India. India is also expected to witness strong growth in the agriculture and pharmaceutical sectors as the Government is investing large sums to set up dedicated R&D centres for these sectors. The Indian IT industry is also expected to add to the development of the R&D sector.

India, as Sri Lanka's closest neighbor and partner is ready to collaborate in research. During the 4th Advisory Board Meeting of the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies of University of Colombo last month (September 2015), I had proposed that the University could partner with leading IT companies in India for training the trainers, who in turn can impart skills to the wider student community in Sri Lanka. The academia in Sri Lanka should avail of various short term courses offered under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) to further enhance the resource base in Sri Lanka.

During his visit to India last month, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe proposed concluding a bilateral Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement by next year. While we commence negotiations for such a landmark agreement, the stress laid by the Prime Minister in boosting cooperation in technology reflects the importance Sri Lanka attaches to harness the fruits of state of the



art technologies and the constantly expanding frontiers of research and development.

There are various fields where collaboration between India and Sri Lanka to promote research and expansion of the knowledge base can take place. Our knowledge about our civilisational ties, which pre-date recorded history, provides a fascinating arena of cooperation. The advent of Buddhism in Sri Lanka almost 2,300 years ago, followed the convening of the Third Buddhist Council, under Moggaliputta-Tissa the senior. Emperor Ashoka sent two great Ambassadors, his own children, Mahinda and Sanghamitta to Sri Lanka to spread the timeless and powerful message of Lord Buddha. Pataliputra (present day Patna), the imperial capital of Emperor Ashoka and from where we believe both Arahata Mahinda and Theri Sanghamitta sailed down the Ganges to Sri Lanka witnessed momentous developments. Till today there exists a big jetty or pier on the Ganga in Patna called "Mahendru Ghat" named after Prince Mahendra or Arahata Mahinda. Perhaps historians and archaeologists in both countries could collaborate and unravel the mysteries of the past through careful research and examination of all available source materials.

In the disciplines of fine arts, languages and education, robust and vibrant collaboration exists between India and Sri Lanka. The renowned Sri Lankan artist, George Key's multi-faceted works drawing on themes from Mahabharata, Khajuraho, Konark and Krishna-Lila are evocative and undermine the symbiotic links that bind us. One of his notable works was the translation of the epic, Geet Govinda by Jayadeva. George Key's work, influenced as it was by Indian art forms, including painting, sculpture, and literature, bridges our cultures and further research on such links would enrich our understanding of each other.

A number of Sri Lankan students studied in Shantiniketan, which was established by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and in numerous institutions of higher learning in India. Events like Kala Pola and the Galle Literary Festival provide opportunities for Indian artists and authors to participate and further our rich legacy of artistic interaction, just as the Jaipur Literary Festival is attended by many well known Sri Lankan writers. Next month we plan to hold the inaugural event of the Festival of India in Sri Lanka which will showcase the diverse and rich cultural heritage of India.

Research on greater connectivity, both virtual and physical, between our two countries, could be mutually beneficial. Both countries are working for resumption of ferry

services between Colombo and Tuticorin and between Talaimannar and Rameshwaram, which will make travel easier. Already India and Sri Lanka enjoy close connectivity by air with 150 flights a week from Colombo to eight destinations in India. I look forward to a time when a passenger can board a train in Kataragama in southern Sri Lanka and travel to Srinagar, a city founded by Emperor Ashoka, in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir by train and ferry. Digital connectivity is another area which has immense potential. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi recently launched an initiative called "Digital India". Sri Lanka could be a partner in this effort and gain from advances made in the digital world.

Research and collaboration on law, especially since our legal systems have so much in common could also be mutually enriching.

There exist a number of bilateral initiatives, which encourage research and collaboration. In this context, let me mention the India-Sri Lanka Foundation (ISLF), set up under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka. The mandate of the ISLF is to foster India - Sri Lanka relations through the enhancement of research in economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields. To ensure this, the Foundation, every year, invites project proposals for funding support. Proposals are considered for research projects and other educational activities at recognised institutions of learning located in India and in Sri Lanka, visits and exchanges involving students, scholars, academics, and publication of research works on India-Sri Lanka relations in various fields.

Many of you would be aware that, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on July 12, 2011, a Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) was established at the University of Colombo in February 2012. The Centre has the potential to emerge as a premier resource centre and academic hub for studies on contemporary India, which will benefit Sri Lankan policy makers, businessmen, academics and students. Establishment of the Centre is an important initiative that contributes to fostering a greater understanding of modern India. The academic community in Sri Lanka should take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Centre to promote greater research and understanding as well as mutually rewarding partnerships.

I understand that a draft MOU between the South Asian University in New Delhi and University of Colombo is in the process of obtaining requisite approvals from both sides. This MoU will further strengthen R & D links between our two countries.

I would like to conclude by extending my best wishes to the organizers of the symposium, including its Chairman, Dr. Sampath Seneviratne and the participants. I wish the Annual Research Symposium 2015 of the University of Colombo all success.



PSLV Successfully Launched Six Satellites from Singapore

December 16, 2015

In its thirty second flight conducted from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR, Sriharikota on December 16, 2015 ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C29 successfully launched six satellites from Singapore, including the 400 kg TeLEOS-1, the primary satellite. The other five satellites were co. passenger payloads. PSLV-C29 launched all the six payloads into an orbit of 549 km height inclined at an angle of 15 deg to the equator. The six satellites carried by PSLV-C29 on December 16, 2015 together weighed about 624 kg at lift-off. These six satellites were launched as part of the agreement entered into between ST Electronics (Satcom & Sensor Systems), Singapore and Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a government of India Company under the Department of Space (DOS). This is the eleventh flight of PSLV in 'core-alone' configuration (without the use of solid strap-on motors). PSLV has successfully launched 57 satellites for customers from abroad including the six Singapore satellites launched

today. After a 59 hour smooth count down, the 227.6 ton PSLV-C29 lifted off from the First Launch Pad (FLP) at SDSC SHAR at 1800 hrs (6:00 pm) IST with the ignition of its first stage. The important flight events included the separation of the first stage, ignition of the second stage, separation of the payload fairing at about 117 km altitude, second stage separation, third stage ignition and separation, fourth stage ignition and cut-off. Once the intended orbit was achieved, TeLEOS-1 was deployed at about 18 min 12 seconds after lift-off. This was followed by the deployment of other five satellites, viz., Kent Ridge-1, VELOX-C1, VELOX-II, Galassia and Athenoxat-1 in quick succession in the subsequent three minutes.



India's GSAT-15 Communication Satellite Launched Successfully

November 11, 2015

GSAT-15, India's communication satellite, was launched successfully by the European Ariane 5 VA-227 launch vehicle in the early morning hours of today (November 11, 2015). The 3164 kg GSAT-15 carries communication transponders in Ku-band as well as a GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) payload operating in L1 and L5 bands.

After a smooth countdown lasting 11 hours and 30 minutes, the Ariane 5 launch vehicle lifted off right on schedule at 0304 hrs (3:04 am) IST today. After a flight of 43 minutes and 24 seconds, GSAT-15 separated from the Ariane 5 upper stage in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 250 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 35,819 km, inclined at an angle of 3.9 degree to the equator. The achieved orbit was very close to the intended one.

ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took over the command and control of GSAT-15 immediately after its separation from the launch vehicle. Preliminary health checks of the satellite revealed its normal health.

In the coming days, orbit raising manoeuvres will be performed to place the satellite in the Geostationary Orbit (36,000 km above the equator) by using the satellite's propulsion system in steps.

After the completion of orbit raising operations, the two solar arrays and both the antenna reflectors of GSAT-15 will be deployed. Following this, the satellite will be put in its final orbital configuration. GSAT-15 will be positioned at 93.5 deg East longitude in the geostationary orbit along with the operational INSAT-3A and INSAT-4B satellites. Later, it is planned to experimentally turn on the communication payloads of GSAT-15. After the successful completion of all the in-orbit tests, GSAT-15 will be ready for operational use.



Book on Indian Space Programme Released on the Second Anniversary of Mars Orbiter Spacecraft Launch

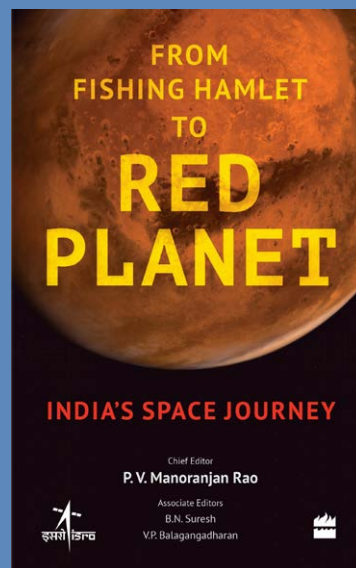
Nov 06, 2015

ISRO has released a free eBook about India's Space Journey, titled 'From Fishing Hamlet To Red Planet', edited by P.V. Manoranjan Rao along with associate editors B.N. Suresh and V.P. Balagangadharan. The book has been released on the occasion of completion of two years of India's ambitious Mars Orbiter Mission. The editors of the book are all retired scientists at ISRO. Several of the scientists have contributed to the book.

The book takes the readers on a journey through India's space program, detailing the evolution of India's satellites, launch vehicles and offer a historical perspective. It also informs the users about the innovative approach taken by ISRO scientists and engineers right from the beginning. It also talks about the innovative technologies developed by ISRO that are now being used by the nation for various development programmes.

The book is divided into eight major parts as below -

- The Beginnings
- Rockets
- Satellites
- On the ground
- Applications
- ISRO and Industry
- International Relations



Download-e-book from <http://www.isro.gov.in>

Culture

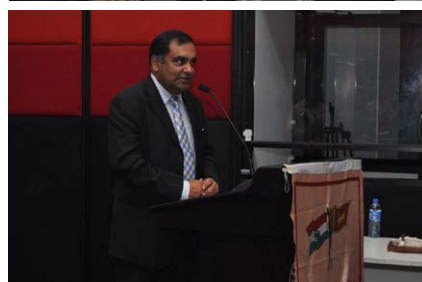
Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo

EVENTS & PROGRAMMES

Lecture - "Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of universal peace, non-violence and ethical leadership"

October 05, 2015

Lecture - "Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of universal peace, non-violence and ethical leadership" by Mrs. Shobhana Radhakrishna organized in collaboration with Sri Lanka India Society



Shankar's International Children's Competition 2016

November 14, 2015

Painting, Drawing and Essay Competition for children commemorating the birth anniversary of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru



Celebrating Life with Colours-3rd Exhibition

November 25, 2015

Inauguration on November 23, 2015 and Presentation on November 24, 2015



Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture - 2015

November 30, 2015

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture - 2015 organized by Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo and Indian cultural Centre, Colombo



Indian Economy Overview

December 2015

Introduction

India is set to emerge as the world's fastest-growing major economy by 2015 ahead of China, as per the recent report by The World Bank. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent in FY 2015-16, as per the report.

The improvement in India's economic fundamentals has accelerated in the year 2015 with the combined impact of strong government reforms, RBI's inflation focus supported by benign global commodity prices.

Market size

According to IMF World Economic Outlook April, 2015, India ranks seventh globally in terms of GDP at current prices and is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2016.

India's economy has witnessed a significant economic growth in the recent past, growing by 7.3 per cent in FY2015 as against 6.9 per cent in FY2014. The size of the Indian economy is estimated to be at Rs 129.57 trillion (US\$ 2.01 trillion) for the year 2014 compared to Rs 118.23 trillion (US\$ 1.84 trillion) in 2013.

The steps taken by the government in recent times have shown positive results as India's gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (2011-12) prices 2014-15 is Rs 106.4 trillion (US\$ 1.596 trillion), as against Rs 99.21 trillion (US\$ 1.488 trillion) in 2013-14, registering a growth rate of 7.3 per cent. The economic activities which witnessed significant growth were 'financing, insurance, real estate and business services' at 11.5 per cent and 'trade, hotels, transport, communication services' at 10.7 per cent.

According to a Goldman Sachs report released in September 2015, India could grow at a potential 8 per cent on average during from fiscal 2016 to 2020 powered by greater access to banking, technology adoption, urbanisation and other structural reforms.

Investments/developments

With the improvement in the economic scenario, there have been various investments leading to increased M&A activity. Some of them are as follows:

India has emerged as one of the strongest performers with respect to deals across the world in terms of mergers and acquisitions (M&A). M&A activity increased in 2014 with deals worth US\$ 38.1 billion being concluded, compared to US\$ 28.2 billion in 2013 and US\$ 35.4 billion in 2012. The total transaction value for the month of November 2015 was US\$ 2.97 billion involving a total of 47 transactions. In the M&A space, Telecom was the dominant sector, amounting to 40 per cent of the total transaction value. Also, Private equity (PE) investments increased 86 per cent y-o-y to US\$ 1.43 billion.

India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 9.8 per cent in October, 2015 compared to 3.8 per cent in September 2015.

India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate increased to 5.41 per cent in November 2015 as compared to 5 per cent in October 2015. On the other hand, the India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rate remained negative at 1.99 per cent for the thirteenth consecutive month in November 2015 as against negative 3.81 per cent in the previous month.

India's consumer confidence continues to remain highest globally for the sixth quarter in a row, riding on positive economic environment and lower inflation. The country's confidence score was 131 in the three months ended September 2015, same as that of previous quarter.

India's current account deficit in the July-September 2015 quarter at US\$ 8.2 billion was wider than the US\$ 6.2 billion in the previous quarter. However, it was lower than the US\$ 10.9 billion deficit recorded in same period last year.

India's foreign exchange reserves were US\$ 352.5 billion in the week up to December 11, 2015, an increase of US\$ 408 million over the past week.

Owing to increased investor confidence, net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows touched a record high of US\$ 34.9 billion in 2015 compared to US\$ 21.6 billion in the previous fiscal year, according to a Nomura report. The report indicated that the net FDI inflows reached to 1.7 per cent of the GDP in 2015 from 1.1 per cent in the previous fiscal year.

Government Initiatives

Numerous foreign companies are setting up their facilities in India on account of various government initiatives like Make in India and Digital India. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, has launched the Make in India initiative with an aim to boost the manufacturing sector of Indian economy. This initiative is expected to increase the purchasing power of an average Indian consumer, which would further boost demand, and hence spur development, in addition to benefiting investors. Besides, the Government has also come up with Digital India initiative, which focuses on three core components: creation of digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally and to increase the digital literacy. Finance Minister Mr Arun Jaitley stated that the government is looking at a number of reforms and resolution of pending tax disputes to attract investments.

Currently, the manufacturing sector in India contributes over 15 per cent of the GDP. The Government of India, under the Make in India initiative, is trying to give boost

to the contribution made by the manufacturing sector and aims to take it up to 25 per cent of the GDP. Following the government's initiatives several plans for investment have been undertaken which are as follows:

British telecom giant Vodafone, India's second largest telecom operator, plans to invest over Rs 13,000 crore (US\$ 1.96 billion) in India, to upgrade and expand its network and also for its payments bank operations.

Chinese smartphone handset maker, Vivo, has set up an assembly unit in India at Greater Noida which will initially manufacture 150,000 smartphone units a month, to produce three smartphone models, namely Y11, Y21 and Y15S.

Foxconn Technology group, Taiwan's electronics manufacturer, is planning to manufacture Apple iPhones in India. Besides, Foxconn aims to establish 10-12 facilities in India including data centers and factories by 2020.

US-based First Solar Inc and China's Trina Solar have plans to set up manufacturing facilities in India. Clean energy investments in India increased to US\$ 7.9 billion in 2014, helping the country maintain its position as the seventh largest clean energy investor in the world.

Hyderabad is set to become the mobile phone manufacturing hub in India and is expected to create 150,000 – 200,000 jobs. Besides, the Telangana Government aims to double IT exports to Rs 1.2 trillion (US\$ 18.7 billion) by 2019.

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.

Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) and Hindustan Shipyard Ltd have joined hands to build warships in India. Besides, Samsung Heavy Industries and Kochi Shipyard will be making Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tankers.

JSW Group plans to expand its cement production capacity to 30 MTPA from 5 MTPA by setting up grinding units closer to its steel plants.

Under the Digital India initiative numerous steps have been taken by the Government of India. Some of them are as follows:

The Government of India has launched a digital employment exchange which will allow the industrial enterprises to find suitable workers and the job-seekers to find employment. The core purpose of the initiative is to strengthen the communication between the stakeholders and to improve the efficiencies in service delivery in the MSME ministry. According to officials at the MSME ministry over 200,000 people have so far registered on the website.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development recently launched Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan's (KVS) e-initiative

'KV ShaalaDarpan' aimed at providing information about students electronically on a single platform. The program is a step towards realising Digital India and will depict good governance.

The Government of India announced that all the major tourist spots like Sarnath, Bodhgaya and Taj Mahal will have a Wi-Fi facility as part of digital India initiative. Besides, the Government has started providing free Wi-Fi service at Varanasi ghats.

Based on the recommendations of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), the Government of India has recently approved 18 proposals of FDI amounting to Rs 5,000 crore (US\$ 770 million) approximately on September 30, 2015.

The Government of India has launched an initiative to create 100 smart cities as well as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for 500 cities with an outlay of Rs 48,000 crore (US\$ 7.47 billion) and Rs 50,000 crore (US\$ 7.78 billion) crore respectively. Smart cities are satellite towns of larger cities which will consist of modern infrastructure and will be digitally connected. The program was formally launched on June 25, 2015. The Phase I for Smart City Kochi (SCK) will be built on a total area of 650,000 sq. ft., having a floor space greater than 100,000 sq. ft. Besides, it will also generate a total of 6,000 direct jobs in the IT sector.

Road Ahead

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Moody's Investors Service have forecasted that India will witness a GDP growth rate of 7.5 per cent in 2016, due to improved investor confidence, lower food prices and better policy reforms. Besides, according to mid-year update of United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects, India is expected to grow at 7.6 per cent in 2015 and at 7.7 per cent in 2016.

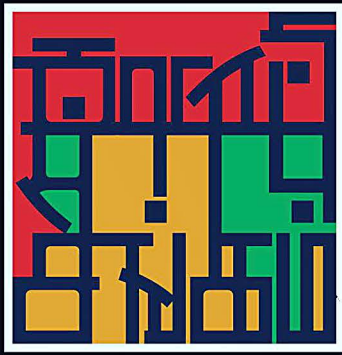
As per the latest Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report by World Bank, India is leading The World Bank's growth chart for major economies. The Bank believes India to become the fastest growing major economy by 2015, growing at 7.5 per cent.

According to Mr Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Finance, Indian economy would continue to grow at 7 to 9 per cent and would double in size to US\$ 4-5 trillion in a decade, becoming the third largest economy in absolute terms.

Furthermore, initiatives like Make in India and Digital India will play a vital role in the driving the Indian economy.

Exchange rate used: INR 1 = US\$ 0.015 as on December 17, 2015

- See more at: <http://www.ibef.org>



SANGAM
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
SRI LANKA 2015-2016

