PM NARENDRA MODI VISITS SRI LANKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a two day visit to Sri Lanka from 11-12 May, 2017 to participate as the Chief Guest at the 14th International Vesak Day celebrations.

This was the first time that Sri Lanka hosted the International Buddhist Vesak Day and the theme of the event was "Buddhist Teachings for Social Justice and Sustainable World Peace." Prime Minister’s visit to Sri Lanka assumes significance also because this is a reflection of India’s shared Buddhist heritage with Sri Lanka. This was Prime Minister’s second visit to Sri Lanka after the landmark visit in March 2015.

During the visit, PM Modi inaugurated the Dickoya multispecialty hospital on 12 May 2017 in the Central Province of Sri Lanka, built with Indian assistance. This project is part of India’s development assistance which since 2005 has been around USD 2.6 billion, out of which USD 450 million are grants. Prime Minister Modi, also addressed a large gathering of Indian Origin Tamils at Norwood, in the presence of the Sri Lankan President, Sri Lankan Prime Minister, and a large number of community leaders.

PM MODI VISITS GERMANY AND SPAIN

Prime Minister Modi arrived in Berlin on 29 May 2017 for the fourth India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations. This was his second bilateral visit to Germany. During their talks, PM Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership between India and Germany by deepening cooperation on foreign policy and security issues as well as on sustainable development and enhanced trade and investment ties.

Germany reiterated its support of India’s membership of various export control regimes. Both countries signed 12 agreements in diverse areas including health, alternative medicine, development cooperation, cyber policy, vocational education, skill development, railway safety, sustainable urban development, etc. A comprehensive joint statement...
was also issued, covering various aspects of the discussions.

At the invitation of President of Spain Mariano Rajoy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Spain on 30 – 31 May 2017. During the visit he also called on His Majesty King Felipe VI.

The two sides welcomed the commencement of a new direct flight between Delhi and Madrid in December 2016, operated by Air India. In the area of Civil Aviation, they welcomed the signature of the bilateral MoU for the implementation of the EU – India Horizontal Agreement of 2008 in Nassau, in December 2016, and the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding in the Sphere of Civil Aviation signed during Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Spain. Both sides agreed to set up a high level panel of 3 experts from each side, representing government, industry and technology sector, to submit a report in 2018 containing recommendations on building synergies in the tourism sector including areas of cooperation with the Madrid based UNTWO. They welcomed the ongoing negotiations for a bilateral Agreement on Customs Cooperation and expressed their intention to conclude them by the end of 2017. In keeping with expanding India-Spain relations, Prime Minister Modi announced opening of an Indian Consulate in Barcelona.

Seven agreements were signed during the visit, including: (1) MOU on Technical Cooperation in Civil Aviation (2) MOU on Cooperation in organ transplantation between India’s Directorate General of Health Services and the National Transplant Organization of Spain (3) MOU on Cooperation in Cyber Security (4) MOU on Cooperation in Renewable Energy (5) Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons (6) MOU between Foreign Service Institute and Diplomatic Academy of Spain (7) Agreement on visa waiver for holders of diplomatic passports.

PM PRAVIND JUGNAUTH OF MAURITIUS VISITS INDIA

PM of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth visited India from May 26 to 28. It was his first overseas visit after taking on the new responsibility as Prime Minister of Mauritius earlier this year. Apart from holding talks with Indian leaders, he also addressed a business event and was felicitated by the India Foundation. PM Modi applauded the leadership shown by Prime Minister Jugnauth in drawing attention to the importance of renewable energy. PM Modi said that the signing and ratification of the framework agreement on International Solar Alliance by Mauritius had opened up new vistas of regional partnership for both countries in this field.
52ND ANNUAL MEETING OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK-2017, GANDHINAGAR

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the African Development bank was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 22 to 26 May 2017. This was the first time that the Annual Meetings of AfDB was held in India. From Namibian side, a 4-member delegation led by Deputy Minister of Finance, Paulus N. Ithete attended the event at Gandhinagar.

Prime Minister Modi presided over the opening session in the presence of three African Heads of State – Presidents Macky Sall of Senegal and Patrice Talon of Benin, as well as Vice-President Daniel Kablan Duncan of Côte d’Ivoire participated in the ceremony alongside India’s Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley, and the Chief Minister for Gujarat State, Vijay Rupani. Three former Bank Group Presidents – Omar Kabbaj, Babacar Ndiaye, and Kwame Fordwor were also present.

Over 3,500 top government officials, business leaders, representatives of NGOs, civil society, as well as members of the academic community and the media participated in the Annual Meetings, which were preceded by high-level meetings, symposiums and seminars on the Bank’s High 5 priorities – Light up and power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa. During his address, PM Modi said that Africa has been his government’s top priority in foreign and economic policy matters. He further stated that the country would stand ‘shoulder to shoulder’ with Africa in its race towards a brighter future. A report on India-Africa: A Shared Development Agenda may be read at link:


HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA PARTICIPATED IN NAMIBIA TOURISM EXPO IN WINDHOEK

The High Commission of India participated in the 19th Namibia Tourism Expo, held in Windhoek from 31 May to 3 June 2017. The focus of the Indian stall was on medical tourism and for this, the Mission partnered with Indian hospital, local distributor of Ayurvedic medicines and the India-Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry to highlight India’s strength and capacity in health/medical sectors.

Daily Yoga demonstrations were organised at the main stage as well as at the Indian stall.

The High Commission’s stand was adjudged the “Most Popular Stand” by the organisers of the Exhibition.

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