**Prime Minister of Singapore visits New Delhi on five-day tour**

Prime Minister of Singapore H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong made a Working Visit to India from 3-7 October 2016 at the invitation of the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister of Singapore was accompanied by Mrs. Lee, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Mr. S Iswaran, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Ong Ye Kung, Senior Minister of State (Defence) & (Foreign Affairs), Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Members of Parliament, Ms. Denise Phua and Mr. Vikram Nair, and an official delegation.

Both Prime Ministers reaffirmed the strong cooperation in the area of smart cities and urban solutions. They welcomed the collaboration between Singapore and various states including Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh and noted the successful launch of the Urban Planning and Governance Programme for Indian officials in September 2016.

The two Prime Ministers underlined the fact that India and New Zealand are both maritime nations with a strong interest in the Asia-Pacific and Indo-Pacific regions being stable and prosperous, including by ensuring the safety and security of sea lanes and freedom of navigation. Accordingly, the two Prime Ministers agreed to further strengthen the political, defence and security relationship enjoyed by India and New Zealand.

New Zealand welcomed India’s entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime, which would strengthen global non-proliferation objectives. New Zealand acknowledged the importance to India of it joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). India stressed that this would provide the predictability necessary for meeting India’s clean energy goals in the context of the Paris agreements. Both sides agreed to commence an Annual Ministerial Dialogue on regional and global issues. Annual Foreign Office Consultations were also institutionalized and it was agreed to cooperate on cyber issues. Agreements were signed on Double Taxation Avoidance, Food Safety and Youth Affairs and Sports.

**Visit of PM of New Zealand to India**

Rt. Hon. Mr. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand, undertook a state visit to India from 25-27 October 2016. Prime Minister Key was accompanied on his visit by his wife, Mrs Bronagh Key, as well as a delegation comprising Parliamentarians; businesspeople from a range of sectors of bilateral significance, including innovation, technology and tourism; and representatives of New Zealand educational institutions and cultural organisations with interests in India.
Gandhi Jayanti Celebrated in Windhoek

2 October 2016 was celebrated at High Commission of India, Windhoek by screening of a documentary feature on Mahatma Gandhi. Floral tributes were presented to Bapu by the attendees.

Celebration of ITEC DAY 2016

ITEC Day was celebrated at Moringa Hall in Hotel Avani, Windhoek on 14 October 2016. The High Commission of India hosted more than 200 ITEC alumni as well as Indian ITEC Experts deputed to Namibia. The evening was inaugurated by lighting of the ceremonial lamp by H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, High Commissioner of India and guests of honour. Thereafter the High Commissioner addressed the gathering and presented the outgoing ITEC scholars with their visas and tickets to India. The Head of Chancery delivered a presentation for the ITEC alumni explaining the features of the alumni portal of the official ITEC website. Alumni registration process was explained for the benefit of the attendees.

The ITEC alumni shared their own India Stories and experiences from their time spent in India, and enjoyed the Indian dinner buffet after the programme. Mr. Raj Rallan, President of India-Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other board members of the chamber also attended the event.

INDIA WEEK 2016

Classical Indian Dance evenings, Bollywood movies, Indian Cuisine & Henna Classes, Yoga & meditation sessions, and many more fun filled activities were organised in Namibia from 17-24 October 2016 which was celebrated as India Week. Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan was remembered as the maths wizard from India at Namibia Scientific Society on 17 October 2016.

Indian Cuisine classes, were held for Namibian enthusiasts on 18th, 19th, 23rd and 24th October 2016 at Indian Cultural Centre in High Commission of India, Windhoek. The classes were well attended by more than 100 participants. Active cooking workshops were included in these classes and participants tried their hands at turning out Indian dishes with many successful attempts.
Henna Art workshops were held to showcase the centuries old art of making henna patterns on hands and feet on 20 Oct 2016 at Indian Cultural Centre.

The participants painstakingly learnt the traditional tattoo patterns and motifs which are characteristic of traditional Indian henna art.

Pranayam Sessions were held during India Week on 18-19 Oct 2016 at Indian Cultural Centre. Also, Meditation workshops on 20-21 Oct 2016, Yoga Therapy for Relief of Backache on 22 October 2016 and SPECIAL Yoga Session on 24 October 2016 saw jam packed attendance at the Indian Cultural Centre.

Bollywood movie Prem Ratan Dhan Payo was screened at Roman Catholic Auditorium on 19 October 2016 for Namibian Audience and Indian Community of Namibia as part of the India Week celebrations.

The film was enjoyed immensely specially by the Namibian audience as well as the Indian Community who attended the screening.

Bollywood movie ‘Drishyam’ was also screened at the Chancery (High Commission of India) lawns on 18 October 2016. The open air screening was planned as a Movie in The Park event enjoyed by many members of the Indian Community.

Indian Classical Dance-Kathak was brought to Namibia by ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi) Troupe led by Ms. Pratima Roy Chaudhury. The Kathak Dance Evening held at National Theatre of Namibia was a runaway success attended by H.E. Ms. Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia. More than 400 spectators attended the spellbinding dance performance on 21 October 2016 at Windhoek.
The Kathak Dance Troupe also organised Dance workshop at Namibian College of Arts, Windhoek on 22.10.2016 where students of performing arts learnt BASIC Kathak movements and techniques. The Troupe also travelled to Swakopmund where another grand performance was organised on 23.10.2016 at Namib Primary Aula.

Upon their return from Swakopmund, the Dance Troupe organised another Dance Workshop at Indian Cultural Centre on 24.10.2016. The participants were taught basic concepts of Kathak Dance techniques and rhythmic movements that form the basis of the dance.

India Theme at Windhoek International School Annual Fair

Windhoek International School (WIS) Annual International Day was held on 4 November 2016 at WIS Fairgrounds where major countries of the world were represented. India stall attracted many visitors thronging the gazebo for henna art motifs, Indian jewellery, traditional Indian cuisine and tourism information. A special Yoga session was also organised during the main event.

The stall was featured in the popular daily ‘The Namibian’ in its coverage of the festival.

Top right: India Stall at Windhoek International School Fair on 5 Nov 2016

ESC Delegation from India

The High Commission of India in Windhoek organized a visit of Indian ICT Delegation from the Electronics & Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) India to Namibia from 6-8 Nov 2016 for exploring the possibilities of business cooperation with the Namibian Companies. In cooperation with the India-Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a business meeting of the Indian delegation was organized with the Namibian business organisations / companies / businesspersons on 7 Nov 2016 at Zambezi Hall, Safari Court Hotel.
Hon’ble Mr Simataa M. Stanley, Dy. Minister of Information & Communication Technology (DMICT), Government of the Republic of Namibia, graced the event as chief guest. Around 40 Namibian companies participated in the event.

In his opening remarks, the High Commissioner of India Mr. Kumar Tuhin provided a broad overview of current bilateral relations between India and Namibia and existing cooperation in the ICT sector. Local attendees shared their requirements/ideas/perspectives with the visiting Indian delegation. Mr Ashutosh Agrawal, member of the ICT delegation from India, made a presentation on Indian IT sector and INDIASOFT 2017 which will take place in Hyderabad, India on Feb 13-14, 2017. Intense discussions took place in the Business to Business meeting that followed and the businesspersons look forward to concretizing the deals discussed.

**Business Events in India**

**INDIASOFT 2017**

Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, (ESC) India’s apex ICT export promotion organisation will host around 400 IT buyers from plus 75 countries converging for business networking and creating a WIN WIN situation by providing a unique business opportunity to both global buyers and Indian exhibitors to interact and forge business alliances, strategic networking, joint ventures, business tie ups. INDIASOFT will be held at Hyderabad, India on Feb 13-14, 2017. For further details and registration log on to [http://www.indiasoft.org/](http://www.indiasoft.org/).