High Commissioner of India H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin delivered a public lecture at the University of Namibia on July 26, 2018 on the topic “India and Africa – Partnership towards Development and Prosperity”. The public lecture was hosted by the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences of UNAM.

Speaking at the event, High Commissioner Kumar Tuhin inter-alia, outlined the rich and distinguished historical ties between India and Africa, which were cemented by geographical proximity, shared history and a common understanding on global issues and development challenges. He mentioned that the importance of India-Africa ties had been consistently growing and that both India and Africa had important roles to play in the process of the building of a new international architecture that placed development, peace and stability in developing countries at its heart.

High Commissioner mentioned that three India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) meetings have taken place, the last one in October 2015 at which India offered for development projects in Africa concessional credit of $10 billion over the next five years, grant assistance of $600 million, an India Africa Development Fund of $10 million and 50,000 scholarships during the next five years.

Under the extended political outreach from India during the last four years, visits at the level of India’s President, Vice President or Prime Minister have taken place to more than twenty five countries of the African continent.

India Africa trade has crossed $70 billion. India is the fifth largest country investing in Africa, with investments during the last twenty years crossing $54 billion creating jobs and opportunities here. India Africa development partnership truly reflects the philosophy of the south-south cooperation encompassing bilateral, regional and pan-African cooperation and working at different levels including trade and investment, technology, skills upgradation, line of credits and grants.
High Commissioner Kumar Tuhin in particular drew attention to the speech of Prime Minister of India at the Parliament of Uganda on July 25, 2018, during which the ten guiding principles of India’s engagement with Africa were inter alia outlined:

One, Africa will be at the top of India’s priorities. India will continue to intensify and deepen its engagement with Africa.

Two, India’s development partnership will be guided by Africa’s priorities.

Three, India will keep its markets open and make it easier and more attractive to trade with India. India will support its industry to invest in Africa.

Four, India will harness its experience with digital revolution to support Africa’s development; improve delivery of public services; extend education and health; spread digital literacy; expand financial inclusion; and mainstream the marginalised.

Five, India will work with African countries to improve Africa’s agriculture.

Six, India’s partnership will address the challenges of climate change. India will work with Africa to ensure a just international climate order; to preserve biodiversity; and, adopt clean and efficient energy sources.

Seven, India will strengthen cooperation and mutual capabilities in combating terrorism and extremism; keeping the cyberspace safe and secure; and, supporting the UN in advancing and keeping peace.

Eight, India will work with African nations to keep the oceans open and free for the benefit of all nations.

Nine, as global engagement in Africa increases, we must all work together to ensure that Africa does not once again turn into a theatre of rival ambitions, but becomes a nursery for the aspirations of Africa’s youth.

Ten, Just as India and Africa fought colonial rule together, they will work together for a just, representative and democratic global order that has a voice and a role for one-third of humanity that lives in Africa and India.

India’s own quest for reforms in the global institutions is incomplete without an equal place for Africa. That will be a key purpose of India foreign policy.

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF BHUTAN TO INDIA (JULY 05-07, 2018)

PM of Bhutan, Mr. Dasho Tshering Tobgay paid an official visit to India from July 5-7, 2018. He was accompanied by Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, Minister of Finance and senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

During the visit, PM Tobgay called on the President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind and had a bilateral meeting with PM Narendra Modi, who also hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary.

External Affairs Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, New and Renewable Energy, Mr. Raj Kumar Singh and the National Security Adviser called on PM Tobgay.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO INDIA (JULY 8-11, 2018)

President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Mr. Moon Jae-in paid a State Visit to India from July 8-11, 2018.
During the visit, President Moon held talks with PM Narendra Modi, he met with President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind and External Affairs Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj also called on him.

He visited Akshardham Temple, Gandhi Smriti and Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. in Noida. President Moon participated in India – Korea Business Forum, India-ROK CEO’s Roundtable and Delegation Level Talks, he laid wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatama Gandhi. He also witnessed exchange of agreements & presented press statement.

A total of 11 MoUs were signed between India and the ROK during the visit.

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO RWANDA, UGANDA & SOUTH AFRICA (JULY 23-27, 2018)
PM of India, Mr. Narendra Modi was on a three nation visit to the Republic of Rwanda from July 23-24, 2018; Uganda from July 24-25, 2018 and Republic of South Africa during July 25-27, 2018.

During the visit in Rwanda, PM Modi held one-on-one talks with President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame and chaired the bilateral delegation level talks. PM Modi interacted with the Indian Community; he visited the Gisozi Genocide Memorial and laid a wreath on the memorial of victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and visited Rweru Model village outside Kigali.

Eight MoUs on various fields and areas of Trade, Defence, dairy-cooperation, agriculture, culture, leather and allied sector and Line of Credit for 200 million USD for expansion of Special Economic Zone and Irrigation Scheme were signed during the visit.

In Uganda, PM Modi held bilateral discussions with President of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

His programme comprised also joint address with President Museveni, of India-Uganda Joint Business Forum, which was jointly organized by the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

An important segment of the visit of PM Modi was the first ever address by an Indian PM to Ugandan Parliament which was telecast live in India and other African countries. In this historic speech, PM inter-alia, outlined India’s engagement and approach to Africa.

MoUs/Agreements on bilateral defence cooperation, exemption from visa requirement for official and diplomatic passport holders, Cultural Exchange programme and establishment of Regional Material Laboratory in Uganda were signed during the visit.
UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

The Indian Council of Food and Agriculture is organizing India International Agro Trade and Technology Fair 2018 from October 25-27, 2018 at IARI PUSA Campus, New Delhi. The event is supported by the Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce & Industry and Food Processing Industries, Government of India. The event involves all key stakeholders of Indian and global agriculture, industry, government, investors, trade and institutions coming together on a common platform to share their vision and explore possibilities of agro food trade, technologies and investments in agriculture, food, dairy, poultry, fisheries, horticulture, agro machinery and agribusiness sectors. Organized concurrently with 11th Global Agriculture Summit, 12 International Conferences, 40 Business Dialogue Sessions, 10 International Cooperation Meetings, Swaminathan Global Dialogue on Climate Change and Food Security and the presentation of the 1st World Agriculture Prize, the combined event is must for all the stakeholders in global food and agriculture system to participate. For more information about the event, please visit the event website http://icfa.org.in/agro-world/.

In South Africa, PM Modi’s visit was in the context of BRICS Summit.

PM Modi attended the BRICS Summit and other BRICS related meetings.

He had a bilateral meeting with South African President, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa as well as other participating countries on the sidelines of BRICS meetings.

Three MoUs in the areas of Defence, trade, culture, Agriculture and Dairy cooperation were signed during the visit.

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