STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT TO MAURITIUS  
(MARCH 11-14, 2018)
President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to Mauritius from March 11-14, 2018.

President Kovind was invited as the Chief Guest to the commemorative events marking the 50th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius on March 12, 2018.

During the visit, the President of India inaugurated the new World Hindi Secretariat building constructed with Indian assistance. His other official engagements included the launch of a project for the supply of e-tablets to primary school children across Mauritius and laying of foundation stone for an ENT Hospital and Social Housing Project. The President also witnessed the exchange of several agreements/MoUs between India and Mauritius.

STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT TO MADAGASCAR  
(MARCH 14-15, 2018)
President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind paid a State visit to Madagascar from March 14-15, 2018 on the second leg of his two-nation visit to Africa and Indian Ocean Region. This was the first ever visit by a President or PM from India to Madagascar.

During the visit, the President was accorded a ceremonial reception. He was also conferred the Grand Cross of the Second Class by the President of Madagascar. Other elements of the visit included the President’s address at an Indian community reception. He also interacted with members of the India-Madagascar Business Forum, addressed students and the academic community at the University of Antananarivo.

Two bilateral agreements – on defence cooperation and aviation cooperation, were also signed during the visit.
STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO INDIA (MARCH 9-12, 2018)
The President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron paid a State Visit to India from March 10 - 12, 2018. During the visit, President Macron laid wreath at the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat, met and held delegation level talks with PM Narendra Modi; and met with the President of India Mr. Ram Nath Kovind. Minister of External Affairs, Sushma Swaraj called on him.

President Macron also participated in the Inauguration of a Solar Power Plant in Mirzapur (U.P) and visited Assi Ghat and Dashashwamedh Ghat in Varanasi.

A total of fourteen (14) MoUs/Agreements were signed during the visit of the President of France to India.

FOUNDING SUMMIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE
French President Macron and Indian Prime Minister Modi co-hosted the Founding Summit of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi on March 11, 2018. This was a very large, a daylong and elaborate event for all the countries who signed up the ISA Framework agreement.

A total of 27 Heads of State, Heads of Government, Vice Presidents and leaders of delegations participated in the ISA Founding Conference.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF GERMANY TO INDIA (MARCH 22-25, 2018)
President of Germany, Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, visited India on March 22-25, 2018. This was his first visit to India as the President of Germany.

President Steinmeier visited Varanasi where he visited Sarnath Archaeological Museum, Mulagandhakuti Vihara Temple, and interacted with Students of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He also visited Dashashwamedh Ghat, witnessed Ganga Aarti and Assi Ghat.

He addressed students of Delhi University and held a Business Round Table in New Delhi. He laid a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi.

President Steinmeier also visited Chennai where he visited Daimler India Commercial Vehicles.

INDIA DONATED 1000 MT OF RICE TO NAMIBIA
India handed over a donation of 1000 MT of rice to Namibia in March 2018.

H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, High Commissioner of India to Namibia, formally handed over the donation to Hon.
Chief Samuel Ankama, Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister at a function held at the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management in the Office of the Prime Minister, which was well attended by several officials.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, High Commissioner Tuhin said that the donation of rice was in fulfilment of the announcement made in this regard during the visit of the President of India to Namibia in June 2016.

Receiving the donation, Deputy Minister Chief Samuel Ankama conveyed profound gratitude on behalf of the Government of Namibia to the Government of India for this assistance and said that this would go a long way in providing relief to the drought affected regions. He also thanked India for always standing by Namibia.

INDIA’S DAY WITH WINDHOEK
The High Commission of India in Windhoek organized an event ‘India’s Day with Windhoek’ in partnership with the City of Windhoek on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 from 1200 hrs to 2000 hrs at City Hall, Municipal Head Office, Windhoek.

A large number of dignitaries including His Excellency Mr. Kumar Tuhin, High Commissioner of India to Namibia, His Worship Hon. Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Senior officers of the City of Windhoek, senior Government functionaries, members of Diplomatic Corps, Press and members of Indian community attended the event.

The event started with the ribbon cutting and lighting of traditional Indian Lamp by H.E. the High Commissioner and His Worship the Mayor.

In his remarks, High Commissioner said that the aim behind organising this event was to increase awareness and promote understanding between the Governments and the peoples at State-City levels.

The State of Bihar was chosen for this event as this State contains some of the most ancient tourist sites in India, including Bodh Gaya where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, Nalanda and Vikramashila - two ancient international universities where students from all corners of the globe came to study philosophy and religion, Vaishali – the place where seeds of democracy were first sown, and several other similar important places.

He expressed hope that the event will provide a brief glimpse of culture, craft and cuisine from the State of Bihar which will lead to better understanding and cooperation at the local level between the two sides.
In his remarks, His Worship the Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Inter-alia conveyed his appreciation for the initiative taken by the High Commission of India in organizing this event which will work to further cement the cordial relationship that exists between the two countries. According to him, the aim of the day was to promote awareness and cooperation at local government level between India and the City of Windhoek, through tourism, arts and culture.

A dance performance by dancers from the College of Arts, Windhoek on Bollywood songs along with Namibian dance by local Namibian group, saree tying competition, Henna tattoos, Indian food and delicacies were the major attractions during the event.

NAMIBIAN COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN EVENTS IN INDIA
Two companies from Namibia participated in CAPINDIA from March 22-24, 2018 in Mumbai, India.

UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

India Chem 2018 - 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference
The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is organizing the 10th edition of India Chem from October 4 - 6, 2018 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, NSE Complex, Goregaon, Mumbai, India. India-Chem is one of the largest composite events of Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry of the Asia-Pacific region. India Chem 2018 will showcase Government policy for sustained growth in the sector and will provide a platform for investors, both domestic and international, and other stakeholders to interact and forge alliances. At the same time, the International Exhibition will enable manufactures to show-case their products and technologies and contract business. The event comprises of an international exhibition and a conference of representatives of participating global giants from various associated fields. For any further enquiries in this regard, get in touch with Mr. Samir Kumar Biswas, Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals ans Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Telephone number +91-11-23383428, email: samir.biswas@gov.in ) and Mr. Manoj Mehta, Joint Director, FICCI (Mobile No. +91-9891098772 email id: manoj.mehta@ficci.com ).

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