VISIT OF THE KING OF BHUTAN TO INDIA (OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 03, 2017)
The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck accompanied by his wife and infant son, was on a four-day visit to India from October 31-November 3, 2017. During the visit, the King met with the President and the Prime Minister of India.

He also met the Vice President of India and the Ministers of Finance and Defence called on him. Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation, including plans for befitting celebrations of golden jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the year 2018.

The visit of the King of Bhutan was in keeping with the long standing tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO INDIA (NOVEMBER 02-04, 2017)
The President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan paid a working visit to India from November 02 - 04, 2017 along with a large business delegation.

President Sargsyan attended the inaugural session of ‘World Food India 2017’ on November 03, 2017. President Sargsyan had bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

The two sides discussed cooperation in diverse areas including the sectors of food processing, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals & healthcare, information technology, mining and jewellery.

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO INDIA (NOVEMBER 02-06, 2017)
Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia Māris Kučinskis, paid a working visit to India from November 02-06, 2017.
PM Kučinskis met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on November 3, 2017. The discussions focused on building closer cooperation in the areas of trade & investment, food processing, and culture among others.

During the visit of PM Kučinskis, the Protocol amending and supplementing the Agreement between India and Latvia relating to Air Services was signed.

PM Kučinskis led Latvia’s participation in the "World Food India 2017". A 16-member business delegation from 7 Latvian companies also participated from sectors such as dairy, fish processing, confectioneries and mineral & drinking water.

**VISIT OF PRINCE OF WALES TO INDIA (NOVEMBER 08-09, 2017)**

Prince of Wales Charles Philip Arthur George accompanied by Duchess of Cornwall, paid a courtesy two-day visit to India from November 08-09, 2017 as part of their 10 day four-nation tour to Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and India. This was the 9th visit of the Prince of Wales to India.

The visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. The Prince met the Indian Prime Minister and discussed a wide range of issues including the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which would take place in April 2018 in the UK, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals, Economic cooperation, among others.

**STATE VISIT OF KING OF BELGIUM TO INDIA (NOVEMBER 05-11, 2017)**

King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium were on a seven-day State visit to India from November 05-11, 2017.

The Royal couple was accompanied by six Ministers and a high powered business delegation comprising of CEOs of about 90 Belgian companies, 13 Heads of academic institutions and a 30-member media delegation.

During the visit, King Philippe and Queen Mathilde met with the President of India, the Vice President of India and the Prime Minister of India.

During the official meeting with Prime Minister Modi, both sides discussed wide ranging bilateral and multilateral issues including India’s historic relations with Belgium, contribution of Indian soldiers in First World War, Belgium’s support to India at the multilateral fora, India’s fight against terrorism, Migration and Mobility, Trade and Investment, India EU relations and the 14th India EU Summit, progress on the India-EU bilateral trade and investment agreement, fight against climate change and India’s views on BREXIT.

About 38 Agreements covering smart cities, academic and business cooperation were signed during the visit. A total of 13 business seminars were also organized – 8 in Delhi and 5 in Mumbai.

The King commended the flagship initiatives of Government of India and expressed the interest of Belgian companies to participate in programs such as Make-in-India, Clean India and the Smart Cities Program.
The Summits were attended by Heads of State/Government of the 10 ASEAN and 18 East Asia Summit Participating Countries respectively. During the visit, Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with President Duterte. In the margins, Prime Minister also held bilateral meetings with several other world Leaders.

At the 15th ASEAN-India Summit, Prime Minister and ASEAN Leaders reviewed the commemorative activities undertaken in 2017 to mark the 25 years of India’s dialogue partnership with ASEAN as well as review the broad spectrum of ASEAN-India cooperation in all its aspects.

At the 12th East Asia Summit, Leaders discussed matters of regional and international interest and concerns including maritime security, terrorism, non-proliferation, irregular migration, etc.

India, being a founding member of the East Asia Summit reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the East Asia Summit and making it more effective for dealing with contemporary challenges. PM also attended a Leaders’ Meeting on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Negotiations which followed the 12th East Asia Summit.

CELEBRATION OF ITEC DAY 2017

The High Commission of India celebrated the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day on November 10, 2017 at Avani Hotel, Windhoek. A large number of Namibian officials and students, who attended training / studies in India under the ITEC or the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship programmes, participated in the event. Hon’ble Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Dr. Peya Mushelenga was the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, High Commissioner said that the ITEC programme commenced fifty three years ago in 1964 as an expression of India’s solidarity with fellow developing countries of the South. It is now a brand name recognized all over the world for building technical capacity and human resources in innovative and effective ways. From Namibia, already more than 1100 Namibian officials and students have availed scholarships under this programme.

Hon’ble Deputy Minister in his remarks conveyed sincere appreciation of the Govt of Namibia to the Govt of India for providing the ITEC and ICCR scholarships, which he described as extremely useful tools for building capacity of the Namibian officials and students. He urged the Namibian officials to take full advantage of the opportunity presented by these scholarships, and urged them to become a bridge of friendship between India and
Namibia upon their return. Deputy Minister Mushelenga also handed over air tickets sponsored by the High Commission of India to some Namibian officials going to India for courses in November/December 2017.

Documentaries on ITEC and on India’s close relations with Africa were screened on the occasion. A few ITEC alumni also spoke about their experiences in India and the benefits they drew from the training programme. The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner of Indian delicacies hosted by the High Commission of India.

NAMIBIAN COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN EVENTS IN INDIA
Two companies from Namibia participated in the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) from November 14-17, 2017 in Delhi. Similarly, two companies from Namibia attended the Global Entrepreneurship Summit from November 28-30, 2017 at Hyderabad.

CONVERSION OF PIO CARDS TO OCI CARDS
All Persons of Indian Origins holding hand written PIO cards are requested to approach High Commission of India, Windhoek after submitting their online application for machine readable OCI card in lieu of their existing hand written/Non-Machine Readable PIO card for conversion on gratis basis to get new Machine readable OCI cards till December 31, 2017.

This is mandatory in view of decision of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to accept only machine readable travel documents from October 2018. For OCI ONLINE REGISTRATION, please follow the link: https://www.passport.gov.in/oci and to view Instructions for OCI card or Eligibility, please follow the link: http://hciwindhoek.in/oci-card.php

SCORPION ZINC INVESTS TO LOOK BEYOND 2021
The Scorpion Zinc mine in southern Namibia, which is the only integrated zinc mine and refinery in Africa that fully beneficiates its natural resources from ore to zinc metal, is in the process of ramping up its mining activities and upgrading its plant and equipment to produce 150,000 tons of the ore body on an annual basis.

The mine owned by the Indian company Vedanta Resources, recently invested US$200 million to extend the life of mine until 2021 when all initial business models suggested that the mine be closed in 2015. During the last two years, the mine invested N$ 100 million strictly for the maintenance of its production and refinery plant.

INDIAN OIL GIANT EXPLORATION COMPANY ACQUIRED A STAKE IN NAMIBIA OFFSHORE OIL BLOCK
Indian giant ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) acquired a 15% stake in an oil block in Namibia’s offshore Block 2012A from Tullow Oil of UK. This was OVL’s second acquisition in Namibia.

Earlier this year, OVL had acquired 30% stake in Namibia’s Petroleum exploration License (PEL) 37, covering three offshore blocks, from Tullow.
UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA...

The 7th Global Economic Summit, under the theme ‘Global Value Chains: Accelerating MSME Growth and Development’ will deliberate on the opportunities and challenges for MSMEs to enhance their participation in GVCs. It will also discuss the relevance of GVCs for overall economic growth and sustainable development. This Summit will examine the effects of the entire process of producing goods from raw materials to finished products, which is increasingly carried out wherever the necessary skills and materials are available at competitive cost and quality. This will provide opportunities for MSMEs to extend beyond local boundaries by addressing the trends in the markets in developing, emerging and developed economies, for their integration into the value chains. Over 3 days, the Summit will gather 500 business leaders from all across India and over 25 countries to explore opportunities in a GVC network. The Summit will comprise dialogues and networking opportunities through plenary sessions, panel discussions, exhibition, B2B meetings and field visits. For more desired information regarding the Summit, relevant organizers can be contacted at email address: marketing@wtcmumbai.org or Cell phone number: +91-22-6638 7379/398 or alternatively on event web site at www.ges2018.com.

THE PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT 2018
“Charting New India’s Global Integration Strategy”
24-26 February 2018: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is organizing the 24th edition of its annual flagship initiative the Partnership Summit 2018, a mega international event, for the third consecutive year in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 24-26 February 2018. Partnership Summit has established itself as an ideal platform for business networking between key stakeholders to develop best strategies and policies towards helping countries improve their competitiveness and integrate better into the globalized world. The Summit features Head of States and Governments, Ministers, policy makers, CEOs, academicians and thought leaders from all over the world. More desired information about the event can be found at www.partnershipsummit.com or contact Chandrajit Banerjee, CII Director General at email address: cb@cii.in or Tell: +91-11-2462874/24629994-1.