President of Kyrgyz Republic visits India

H.E Mr. Almazbek Atambayev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic paid a State Visit to India from 18-21 December 2016. The official programme included a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, meetings with President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi; a Banquet hosted by President Shri Pranab Mukherjee; and, participation in an India and Kyrgyz Republic Business Forum. PM Modi and President Atambayev reviewed the status of the agreements reached by the two countries following the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Kyrgyzstan in 2015, expressed satisfaction with the achievements in bilateral relations and reaffirmed their readiness to further enhance multifaceted cooperation.

The Indian side applauded the successful and transparent conduct of parliamentary elections, with the use of biometric data in the Kyrgyz Republic in October 2015. India and Kyrgyzstan underlined the value of Parliamentary exchanges. The Indian side offered to share their experience during special courses which will be arranged for the Members and staff of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz side appreciated India’s role as a partner in development. Both sides took note of projects under implementation as also those in the pipeline in diverse fields including information technology, healthcare, telemedicine, agriculture, biomedical research, training and capacity building, education and culture. In order to celebrate the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the two leaders agreed to hold a series of events to commemorate this occasion. The following agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit: (i) MoU on cooperation in the field of Tourism (ii) Agreement on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Food Industry (iii) MoU on cooperation in the field of Youth development (iv) MoU on cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, MEA, New Delhi and Diplomatic Academy of MOFA of Kyrgyz Republic (v) MoU in the field of cooperation in youth exchange between NCC of India and Military Lyceum of Kyrgyz Republic (vii) MoU on cooperation in the field of Broadcasting and exchange of audiovisual programmes between Prasar Bharati of India and Public Broadcast Corporation of Kyrgyz Republic (viii) Bilateral Investment Treaty

President of Indonesia visits India

The President of Republic of Indonesia H. E. Mr. Joko Widodo paid a State visit to India from 11 to 13 December 2016. This was the first bilateral visit to India by President Widodo. H.E. President Joko Widodo held a meeting with President of India, H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, followed by State Banquet at Rashtrapati Bhawan on 12 December 2016. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Joko Widodo held
extensive talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari, who had visited Indonesia in November 2015, called on the President of Indonesia.

PM Modi and President Widodo noted that the relationship had acquired a new momentum following the establishment of a Strategic Partnership in November 2005. It received a further boost with the adoption of a Joint Statement for defining the 'Vision for the India-Indonesia New Strategic Partnership over the coming decade' during the visit of the President of Indonesia to India in January 2011 and adoption of a 5-pronged initiative for strengthening the Strategic Partnership in October 2013 during the visit of the Prime Minister of India. The two Leaders recalled their first meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 November 2014 on the sidelines of ASEAN Summit during which they discussed concrete areas of cooperation between India and Indonesia. Speaking on this occasion, PM Modi stated, “Indonesia is one of India’s most valued partners in our Act East Policy. It is the largest economy in South East Asia. And, India is one of the fastest growing large economies in the world. As two large democracies and major emerging economies, we have shared economic and strategic interests.

The following MoU/Agreements were signed during the visit: (i) MoU on Youth and Sports Cooperation (ii) MoU on Standardization Cooperation between the Bureau of Indian Standards of India and the National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (iii) Joint Communiqué on the Voluntary International Cooperation to Combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and to promote Sustainable Fisheries Governance

PM Of Qatar visits India

HE Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar undertook an official visit to India from 2-3 December, 2016.

The visit was significant as it came in the context of efforts to review progress made on key tracks of the bilateral relationship to build on the agreements reached during the visit of the Prime Minister of India, Sh Narendra Modi, to Qatar on 4-5 June 2016.

During the talks, the two Prime Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on ways and means to further expand and consolidate the close, multi-faceted relationship between the two countries, underpinned by age-old trade and people-to-people contacts. Both sides agreed to increase the level of participation in infrastructure development projects on either side and undertook to exchange information on available investment opportunities in a regular and timely manner.

The two leaders also emphasized the need to take practical steps to build on the framework provided by the Agreement on Defence Cooperation signed in November 2008 by enhancing cooperation in the fields of specialized training, exchange of information and joint production of defence equipment.

Three Agreements/MOUs were signed, including the Agreement for Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passport Holders, and MOUs on Technical Cooperation in Cyber Space and Combating Cyber Crime; and between the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy of Qatar and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in addition to a Letter of Intent for e-visas for tourists and businessmen. Separately, a MoU between Qatar Ports Management Company (“Mwani Qatar”) and Indian Ports Global Private Limited was concluded.

During the visit, Prime Minister of Qatar called on Hon’ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The Home Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh, called on the Prime Minister of Qatar during the visit.

The two sides resolved to work closely to combat terrorism and radicalization and noted the importance of consolidating the values of tolerance and preventing the spread of sectarianism. They discussed cooperation on counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing and countering terror-financing and money laundering, apart from other transnational crimes.
**High Commission Celebrates Constitution Day in Windhoek**

The High Commission of India, in collaboration with the International University of Management (IUM), organised a seminar on India’s Constitution Day (26 November) on 06 December 2016. In addition to the Vice Chancellor and senior academics from IUM and other universities, Hon’ble Dr. Peys Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Hon’ble Nahas Angula, the Third Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, IUM Founder and Chairman of IUM Governing Council Dr. David Namwandi, Professor Joseph Diescho, political Analyst and former Executive Director of NIPAM, members of diplomatic community and media persons participated in the event.

**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations in Windhoek**

The High Commission of India celebrated Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9 January 2017, which was attended by prominent members of the Indian community and officials of the High Commission.

In his remarks, High Commissioner H.E. Kumar Tuhin briefed the gathering about some recent important initiatives undertaken by the Government of India for the welfare of the overseas Indian community. A documentary was also screened on this occasion at the Conference Centre.

In India, the main celebrations were held in Bengaluru. Dr. António Costa, Prime Minister of the Republic of Portugal was the Chief Guest at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention held from 7 to 9 January, 2017. He participated in the inaugural session of the PBD Convention on 8 January and addressed the delegates. Mr. Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin, Vice President of the Republic of Suriname was the Special Guest at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) held on 7 January, 2017 in Bengaluru. He addressed the young overseas Indian delegates at the inaugural session of the Youth PBD, along with Minister of External Affairs Smt Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel. More details at [http://pbdindia.gov.in/](http://pbdindia.gov.in/)

**BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA**

**GrainEx India 2017**

Bridging the Gap

10 - 12 February 2017

Lalbagh Ganja Exhibition Center, Indore

(Madhya Pradesh) India

**FEBRUARY 2017**

WHEAT | CHANNA | PULSES & RICE | SPICES | SOYA | FLOUR

**GrainEx India 2017**

Launch edition of GrainEx India 2017 (Exhibition) is supported by prestigious Indian agri and food organizations, such as Madhya Pradesh Dal Udyog Mahasang, All India Rice Exporters Association, Spices Board India, The Soya bean Processors Association of India, Roller Flour Millers Federation of India etc. log on to [http://tradeshows.tradeindia.com/grainexindia](http://tradeshows.tradeindia.com/grainexindia/) for registration and details.

**INDIAN FOOD EXHIBITION 2017**

11-15 January 2017

Race Course Ground, Paljot, Gujarat, India.
Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair 2017

World’s largest sourcing show set for grand opening of the 43rd Spring Edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair on 16 Feb 2016 at India Exposition Mart Limited, Greater Noida Expressway, NCR of Delhi.

A meeting ground for the international gifting and lifestyle products industry, today the IHGF has evolved to become the worlds’ most comprehensive sourcing event for home fashion and utility, collectibles, gifting and fashion accessories. To register please email visitors@epch.com or visit www.epch.in.

India Stonemart 2017 would be the largest international exposition on stone industry which would showcase the world of natural dimensional stones, ancillary products and services comprehensively. The event would bring together various stake holders of the stone industry viz domestic and overseas producers, exporters / importers, consumers and buyers, experts, technology providers, architects, builders, developers, corporates, etc. under one umbrella. India Stonemart 2017 would provide an ideal platform to the exhibitors to promote their products, services and brand image amongst the consumers from across the globe and establish business linkages and networking with them for enhancing their business horizon and prospects.

The event is organised by CDOS with FICCI as co-organiser and is supported by the Government of Rajasthan and other reputed institutions. Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd. is the Principal Sponsor of the event. More details at http://www.stonemart-india.com/the-show.php