Prime Minister Modi Visits Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 2-3 April, 2016 at the invitation of King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. This was the highest-level visit from India to Saudi Arabia after the visit of the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Riyadh in 2010. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held discussions with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

India and Saudi Arabia share friendly relations based on close people-to-people contacts. The ‘Strategic Partnership’ established through Riyadh declaration in 2010 envisons a deeper engagement in political, economic, security and defence areas. In recent years, there has been significant progress in bilateral cooperation in such key areas of mutual interest.

Saudi Arabia has become India’s 4th largest partner with bilateral trade exceeding US$ 39 billion in 2014-15. Saudi Arabia is also India’s largest crude oil supplier accounting for about one-fifth of India’s total imports. Indians form the largest expatriate community in Saudi Arabia and their contribution in the progress and development of their host country is well recognized. There are over 2.96 million Indian nationals presently working in Saudi Arabia.

External Affairs Minister Visits Nepal

37th SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting took place on 25 March 2016 for which the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Pokhra, Nepal. EAM also held bilateral talks with her counterparts from several countries after the SAARC Ministerial Meeting. The EAM stressed on India’s ‘Neighbourhood First’ Policy and reviewed progress of the decisions taken by the grouping last year.

As close neighbours, India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation characterized by open borders and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture. There has been a long tradition of free movement of people across the borders. Nepal shares a border of over 1850 kms in the east, south and west with five Indian States – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal. Under the provisions of this Treaty, the Nepalese citizens have enjoyed unparalleled advantages in India, availing facilities and opportunities at par with Indian citizens. Nearly 6 million Nepali citizens live and work in India.
VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER OF MEXICO TO INDIA 11-14 MARCH 2016

The Foreign Minister of Mexico, Ms Claudia Ruiz Massieu Salinas, visited India on 11-12 March 2016 and held talks with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj. She also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. During their bilateral meeting, the two Ministers undertook a comprehensive review of the entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, commercial & trade, financial, technical and other areas to further broaden and strengthen cooperation.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress in bilateral relations and agreed to exchange high level visits in the near future. The Mexican Foreign Minister also interacted with the private sector in a business event organized with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and delivered a lecture in the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on the subject ‘Mexico in the international context and its relations with India’.

The Minister also undertook a short ride in the Delhi Metro and inaugurated a photographic exhibition called ‘Mexico Is’ in the Rajiv Chowk Metro Station.

117000 Tourists opt for eTouristVisa to visit India during February 2016

As many as 117000 people arrived in India on online visa in February 2016 as compared to 24,985 during the same month last year, registering a growth of 369.1%. With effect from February 26 this year, the e-tourist visa facility was extended for citizens of 37 more nations, taking the total to 150 countries, including NAMIBIA. For applying online to visit India for Tourism purposes, visit www.indianvisaonline.gov.in.

President of India Sends Greeting to the President of Namibia on Namibia’s Independence Day

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee extended his greetings and felicitations to the President of Namibia on Namibia’s National Day (March 21, 2016).

In his message to H. E. Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, the President of India said, “On behalf of the Government, the people of India and on my own behalf, it gives me immense pleasure to convey to you and to the Government and people of Namibia, warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of your National Day. India and Namibia enjoy historical friendly relations and close political ties. We admire Namibia’s progress towards building a vibrant, peaceful and prosperous nation and Your Excellency’s commitment to democracy and nation building. I am confident that the India-Namibia relationship will further strengthen in the years to come for the mutual benefit of our two peoples. Please accept, Excellency, my good wishes for your personal well-being, and for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Namibia”
The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has launched a unique scheme for Overseas Indian Workers with Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports. The scheme is called Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY). The objective of MGPSY is to encourage and enable the overseas Indian workers by giving government contribution to:

- Save for their Return and Resettlement (R&R),
- Save for their old age,
- Obtain a Life Insurance cover against natural death during the period of coverage.

The government contribution available under the MGPSY is for a period of five years or till the return of subscribed worker back to India, whichever is earlier.

**Main Attractions of MGPSY:***

- **Government contribution of Rs. 1,000 per annum** in line with Swavalamban platform for all MGPSY subscriber who save between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 12,000 per year in NPS-Lite.
- An **additional government contribution of Rs. 1,000 per annum** by MOIA for the overseas Indian women workers who save between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 12,000 per year in NPS-Lite.
- A **special government contribution of Rs. 900** by MOIA towards Return and Resettlement (R&R) of the overseas Indian workers who save Rs. 4,000 or more per annum.
Trade Fairs and Exhibitions:

The 5th edition of India International Cycle, Fitness & Outdoor Sports Expo 2016 (CFOSE) is to be held at Bengaluru from 5-7 Aug 2016. We would like to welcome Bicycle & Bicycle Parts, Fitness Equipment and Outdoor Sports Fraternity from all over the world for the exhibition. Exhibitors from many countries are expected to participate and showcase their products in this exhibition with expected great footfall of visitors/dealers/retailers from all over the world, we would like to appeal whole Bicycle & Bicycle Parts manufacturers across the globe to take part in CFOSE 2016, an ideal platform for future oriented information exchange, discussions, decisions, buying, selling and investments.

CFOSE 2016 will provide a platform for international manufacturers to interact with domestic distributors, retailers and end users for exploring the immense business opportunities of the Cycle, Fitness & Outdoor Sports market in India. At CFOSE- 2016 a wide range of internationally acclaimed products will be on display to create more awareness. Unlike several countries in the world where substantial bicycles are sold through department stores and Sports goods chains, India traditionally sells through exclusive bicycle outlets. The distribution chain begins with a wholesaler who in turn channelizes the inventory to distributors, and thereon to dealers and retailers who become the final touch-points for bicycle customers across the country. A few importers also choose the unconventional internet sales through portals like eBay, flipkart.

INTERESTING FACTS:
India is the second largest manufacturers of bicycles in the world.
India manufactures more than 15 million bicycle annually.
India exports nearly 3 million bicycle globally.
India bicycle industries has a consistent growth of 25% - 28% annually.
There is a trend among the middle and the upper middle class towards fitness and cycling in general, demanding a better quality in bicycles.
A huge market exists in the bicycle spare and components area.
The Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organizing the second edition of the Global Exhibition on Services from 21 to 23 April 2016 at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida. The objective is to provide a platform to all the participants, delegates, business visitors and other key decision maker from the services industry and other related industry to interact with, and explore new business avenues. The Second GES will spotlight on the services sector of the world economy and will serve as a forward-looking impulse for the services industry. It is scheduled to be held at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida from 21 to 23 April 2016. This 2nd Edition of GES 2016 will also organise India Africa Health Forum 2016 as part of its various discussions and events, on 21 April 2016 at Indi Exposition Mart Ltd Greater NOIDA, New Delhi. This Forum will provide the leaders from African Government, civil society and the Private Sector of both India & Africa to meet and discuss specific projects for collaboration in the health sector. The Forum aims to showcase world class healthcare services, diagnosis, medical technology, and medical research offered by India. The meet will also provide platform for African Countries to showcase the Investment opportunities in the healthcare and related sectors to the potential investors who will attend the event.

High Commission of India –YOGA CENTRE commences Sessions from March 31

Yoga classes at the High Commission of India commenced from March 31. 2016. There are three classes (i) Therapy Yoga from 8 am to 9 am (ii) Basic Yoga -from 9:10 am to 10:10 am and (iii) Advanced Yoga-from 5 pm to 6 pm. Each class will be of approx. one month duration. There is no charge for attending the classes. However, those interested are advised to fill out interest form (available on request) and deposit either physically at the High Commission of India or send a scanned copy in through email at india.windhoek@gmail.com. The High Commission will inform applicants about the slot allotted. Yoga learners are also advised to bring in their Yoga mats with them.
Know India!

The Ministry of External Affairs is organizing the next edition of Know India Programme (KIP) to familiarize Indian Diaspora youth with India’s culture, heritage and also with contemporary India. KIP will be for a duration of 25 days, of which participants will spend nearly 10 days in a select State. The focus of the next KIP will be 'Maharashtra State', and is scheduled from 05 May to 01 June, 2016. The highlight of this tour would be a chance to experience a journey onboard the luxury train 'Deccan Odyssey'. This programme is open for Indian origin diaspora youth in the age group of 18-26 years. Preference would be given to PIOs who have not visited India so far. Completed application forms should be submitted by Indian diaspora youth to High Commission of India in Windhoek by 7 April. Selected participants have to purchase their flight ticket for their journey from the country of residence to India and back, as per the schedule shared. The High Commission of India would reimburse 90% of total cost of air ticket (at lowest economy excursion fare) to participants on successful completion of the programme by them. The Focus of this year’s KIP will be Maharashtra state.