President of France Visits India

The President of France H.E. Mr. Francois Hollande paid a State Visit to India from January 24-26, 2016. He was also the Chief Guest at India’s Republic Day Celebrations. This was the fifth time that a serving President of the French Republic was the Chief Guest at India’s Republic Day function. This visit included a CEOs Forum interaction in Chandigarh as well as an India-France Business Summit at which a number of B2B agreements were signed in the presence of the leaders of two countries.

India’s bilateral relationship with France is very comprehensive. It covers a number of sectors such as defence, civil nuclear cooperation, railways, smart cities, science and research, space and culture. On the business side also, India has strong ties with France, the bilateral trade is around USD 8 billion of which USD 5 billion are India’s exports to France. There are more than 800 French enterprises operating in India. These include industry leaders like Alstom, Airbus, Schneider, Alcatel, Total, BNP Paribas, L’Oréal, Renault, Sanofi Aventis, Veolia, Engie (GDF Suez), Thales, Vinci, etc.

Also, in a very first of its kind French troops marched along side Indian troops on 26th January on Rajpath. There has been no occasion in the past when foreign troops have participated in the march past during India’s Republic Day Celebrations.

Indian High Commission Celebrates Republic Day

The High Commission of India organised Republic Day 2016 celebrations in Windhoek on January 26, 2016. Flag hoisting ceremony was held in the morning at the Indian High Commission premises and the President’s address to
the Nation was read by High Commissioner Mr. Kumar Tuhin.

A large number of Indian community members were present.

The High Commissioner of India to Namibia interacting with Indian community members at the High Commission on 26 January 2016

A formal Reception and Dinner was hosted in the evening at Safari Hotel. Hon’ble Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Dr. Peya Mushelenga was the Guest of Honour. Dignitaries present included Minister of Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare Hon. Bishop Zephania Kameeta, several Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Ambassadors/High Commissioners, and Heads of Namibian institutions and organizations.

Govt of India Donates ICT Equipment Worth US$ 5 Million to Namibian Health Ministry

The Government of India has donated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment worth USD 5 million to the Ministry of Health and Social Services of Namibia. The equipment includes 1621 desktop computers; seven laptops; 71 printers; a scanner and three Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) projectors. It will be distributed to district hospitals countrywide, as well as to health extension workers.

High Commissioner Mr. Kumar Tuhin handed over the equipment to Minister of Health and Social Services Mr. Bernand Haufiku on February 12, 2016. Accepting the equipment, Minister Haufiku said the equipment will play a significant role in the ministry’s migration from a manual to digital system. The minister assured the High Commission that the ministry’s staff will be trained suitably so the equipment is put to good use.
Indian High Commission Conducts Test for ICCR Scholarship

The prestigious ICCR Africa Scholarship Programme again attracted Namibian hopefuls in droves. The applicants were given a qualifying exam on 12 January 2016 in the premises of the High Commission of India, Windhoek and shortlisted candidates recommended for selection to Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi. The Institutions in India and ICCR, New Delhi will take the final call regarding the selections.

High Commission of India to Organize YOGA Classes

The High Commission of India will be organizing Yoga Classes at its premises from March 2016. A Yoga instructor has been deputed by the Govt of India to Windhoek, who is expected to reach here in end Feb. Exact date of commencement of classes and other details will be notified later. In view of limited number of spaces available, prior registration may be needed.

Voluntary Certification of YOGA Professionals

The Ministry of AYUSH in India has launched a scheme for voluntary certification of YOGA Professionals as part of the First International Day of Yoga Celebrations. The Scheme is being implemented by the Quality Council of India. The Scheme for Yoga Professionals, as of now, will evaluate four levels of competence, namely, Yoga Instructor, Yoga Teacher, Yoga Master and Yoga Acharya. For further details please visit:--yogacertification.qci.org.in
Business Policies/ Trade Fairs and Exhibitions:

THE SECOND SMART CITY SUMMIT 2016 will be hosted in May 2016 at New Delhi. The Government of India’s ambitious Smart City Programme will aim at transforming urban clusters with smooth transportation, e-governance, better social infrastructure, healthcare & education. Over the next 6 years, India plans to transform 100 such cities and towns. To facilitate meetings and exchanges between service providers and businesses/healthcare and education sector concerns with a platform for strategizing, the Smart Cities Expo is be held.