Shared Trust, New Horizons

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day visit to Russia from 23-24 December 2015 for the 16th India-Russia Annual Summit. It was his first bilateral visit to the Russian Federation after assuming office in May 2014.

With a purpose to deepen cooperation in the spheres of Security, Trade, Economy, Energy, Science and Technology, and take forward the already robust people-to-people ties between the two nations, the visit reaffirmed the unique character of Russia-India relations based on time-tested friendship.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi held extensive deliberations with President Putin. The interactions between the two leaders were marked by deep warmth and mutual trust that characterise the special and privileged partnership between India and Russia.

Sixteen important agreements in diverse fields of bilateral cooperation, including several commercial agreements between the Russian and Indian companies, were signed during the visit.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the intensive and effective dialogues between Indian and Russian Ministries, Security Councils and other specialised agencies towards strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse fields.

They reconfirmed their commitment to realise the target set at the last Annual Summit to increase annual bilateral trade and investment. Emphasis was laid on the need for continued facilitation by both the governments based on regular consultations within the framework of institutional mechanisms as well as speedy
implementation of decisions and liberalisation of relevant rules and regulations. They also reaffirmed their cooperation in the military-technical field, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, mutual commitment to the further development of cooperation in the field of outer space exploration and the need for sustained and institutionalised interactions to foster greater security-related cooperation.

From India to the Heart of Asia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to Kabul on December 25, 2015. It was the Prime Minister’s first visit to Afghanistan.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi and Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated and dedicated the National Assembly building, to the Afghan people. An enduring symbol of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, National Assembly building, was constructed under India-Afghanistan Development Cooperation.

Prime Minister Modi profusely thanked the Government and the people of Afghanistan for the honour accorded to India by naming a block of National Assembly Building after Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India. He also assured the Government of Afghanistan, of Indian assistance for a new Administrative Block of the National Assembly.

Addressing the members of Meshrano Jirga and Wolesi Jirga, Prime Minister Modi complimented the people of Afghanistan and their elected representatives on consolidation of democracy in the country and appreciated the contributions of former President Karzai, the National Unity Government of President Ghani and Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah.

The two leaders recalled their earlier three meetings in 2015 and expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the decisions to further develop all-round bilateral cooperation. President Ghani noted that India-Afghanistan partnership was helping the transformation of Afghanistan by enabling empowerment of its society, reconstruction and development of Afghan economy and strengthening of its polity.

They discussed key aspects of utilisation of India’s pledged assistance of over USD 2 billion for development in Afghanistan and welcomed the part played by over 100 completed and ongoing Small Development Projects (SDP) in creating community infrastructure at the local level. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India’s full support to Afghanistan for strengthening its defensive capabilities for preserving Afghanistan’s unity and territorial integrity.

India-Development Foundation of Overseas Indians

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI), a not-for-profit Trust has been set up by Ministry of External Affairs of India to enable philanthropy/contributions from NRIs/PIOs to social and development projects in India. IDF-OI is chaired by Hon’ble Minister of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs. IDF-OI will be offering projects pertaining to Swacch Bharat Mission, National Mission for Clean Ganga and projects in States of India, for philanthropy/contribution by overseas Indians. Details of the projects are at IDF-OI’s website www.idfoi.org.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj
Hon’ble Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs & Chairperson, IDF-OI

Although, the Indian Diaspora is a very heterogeneous group, there is a common factor which binds them- their desire to maintain their connection with their homeland and to contribute to the social and development efforts in India. We are seeking to strengthen and deepen our relationship through IDF-OI.”
REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS 2016

The Indian diaspora in Namibia is cordially invited to Republic Day celebrations at the High Commission of India, Windhoek (Chancery Premises) at 8:00 am for Flag Hoisting ceremony on 26 January 2016. Vande Mataram!

Jaipur Literature Festival 2016

The Jaipur Literature Festival 2016 is scheduled to be held from 21-25 January, 2016 in Jaipur. The event has attained international standing and is attended by renowned literary figures from across the globe. More information can be seen at https://jaipurliteraturefestival.org

Make In India Week, February 13-18, 2016, Mumbai

In order to showcase the potential of design, innovation and sustainability across India's manufacturing sectors in the coming decade, Government of India is organizing a landmark event titled, "Make-in-India Week" from February 13 to 18, 2016 in Mumbai. The event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister of India. The week-long event will offer foreign investors and businesses unprecedented access, insights and opportunities to showcase, connect and collaborate with young Indian entrepreneurs, industry leaders, academicians, and government officials at the central and state levels. Highlights of the "Make-in-India Week" will include:

a. Make in India Center: This will be the platform for exhibiting innovative products and manufacturing processes developed in India along with a vision to leverage design, innovation and technology in the backdrop of global manufacturing.

b. CNN-Asia Business Forum: Would comprise of a series of seminars, CXO meets and round-tables and networking events on economic challenges, investment opportunities etc. The event would feature Global visionaries, and leaders from the fields of finance, industry and design. Renowned CNN anchor Fareed Zakaria will host the CNN-Asia Business Forum.

c. Urban Planning Seminar on re-imagining Mumbai: This session would focus on new impetus for a smarter e-enabled Mumbai collaborating with the best-in-class technology partners.

d. Hackathon: A 24-hour marathon event where coders, engineers, and designers collaborate intensively for 24 hours to come up with ideas to solve urban design problems.

e. TIME India Awards: Recognizing excellence in the world of manufacturing)

For more information on participation, please contact the High Commission of India in Windhoek, Namibia

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