Delhi Dialogue VIII held with ASEAN Partners

The 8th edition of Delhi Dialogue took place in New Delhi from 17-19 February 2016. The theme for Delhi Dialogue VIII was "ASEAN-India Relations: A New Paradigm." Political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, business leaders, think tanks and academicians from ASEAN countries and India participated in the discussions. The Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between ASEAN and India. It has been held annually since 2009.

This dialogue was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs of India in collaboration with the Institute for Defence and Strategic Analyses (IDSA), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore, SAEA Group Research, Singapore, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and ASEAN-India Centre. It was supported by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER); the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII); the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); All India Association of Industries (AIAI), Mumbai; and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata.

This was the first time that Delhi Dialogue was spread over three days, dedicating one day each for its three sessions – Business, Ministerial and Academic. The Ministerial session was held on 18 February 2016, hosted by the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. In this session, there were two panel discussions on (i) "Connectivity: Creating Pathways to a Shared Future" in which ASEAN Ministers and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States of India participated; and (ii) on "ASEAN Economic Community and India: Integrating Regional Value Chains and Production Networks," in which Heads of Delegations from ASEAN countries participated.

Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Visits India

At the invitation of Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, H.E. Mr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia paid his first official visit to New Delhi on 7-8 March, 2016. During the visit, the two ministers discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. Previously, they met on the sidelines of the First India Arab League Ministerial meeting in Manama, Bahrain on 24 January 2016.

The ‘Strategic Partnership’ between India and Saudi Arabia was established in 2010 and it envisions a deeper engagement in political, economic, security and defence areas through the Riyadh Declaration. In recent years, there has been significant progress in bilateral cooperation in key areas of mutual interest, including energy security, trade and infrastructure development projects. Saudi Arabia has become India’s fourth largest partner with bilateral trade reaching US$ 40 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 positive 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.

**High Commission of India organizes Round Table Discussion on India Namibia Cooperation in Health and Medical Sectors**

The High Commission of India in Namibia organised a Round Table Discussion on ‘India-Namibia Cooperation in Health and Medical Sectors’ on 29th February 2016. Hon’ble Minister of Health and Social Services of Namibia Mr Alfred Haufiku was the Chief Guest at the event. Health Service providers, Pharma companies, Insurance Companies, Hospital representatives, health and ICT professionals from India and Namibia participated in the event.

High Commissioner of India H.E. Kumar Tuhin provided a broad overview of bilateral cooperation in health sectors, inter alia, drawing attention to the Pan Africa e-Network project, which provides a telemedicine link between the central hospital in Windhoek and Super Specialty Hospitals in India. The High Commissioner highlighted the strengths of Indian health and pharma companies and noted that a number of Indian companies already had presence in Namibia. Several Namibian students are also pursuing medical studies in India.

The High Commissioner referred to the India Africa Health Fund which was set up as an outcome of the India Africa Forum Summit-III meeting in New Delhi in October 2015 and suggested that the Namibian side take advantage of this Fund to further strengthen the capacity of health and medical sectors. The roundtable also discussed ‘Make In India’ programme initiated by the Government of India under which numerous incentives have been offered to the companies undertaking manufacturing under ‘Make In India’. The interactive discussions touched upon a broad spectrum of topics such as health services delivery models/options, skill upgradation and capacity building of health professionals, strengthening capacity of public health centres, effective use of information technology, sourcing/importing of pharmaceuticals, drug regulation, manufacturing of pharmaceuticals in Namibia, cooperation under the India Africa Health Fund, etc.

**High Commissioner of India pays Courtesy Call on Speaker of National Assembly of Namibia**

The High Commissioner of India Mr. Kumar Tuhin paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Speaker of National Assembly of Namibia Peter Katjavivi on February 22, 2016. During the meeting, both sides noted that India and Namibia were two vibrant democracies and there was close cooperation between the two Parliaments and the political parties of two countries. They further discussed ways and means for further strengthening cooperation between the Parliaments of two countries.

**Namibian Folk Dancers Enthral at Surajkund Crafts Fair**

A Namibian folk dance group visited India and performed during the Surajkund Crafts Fair held during February 2016. The Namibian folk dance group acquainted Indians visiting the fair to Namibian folk dance forms and mesmerized them with their rhythmic dances.
High Commission of India to Start YOGA Classes from March 30

Yoga classes at the High Commission of India will commence from March 30, 2016. There will be 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.

Business Policies/ Trade Fairs and Exhibitions:

Ministry of Shipping, Government of India is organizing “Maritime India Summit (MIS) 2016” on 14-16 April 2016 at Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre. Republic of Korea will be the partner country for the MIS 2016. The two-day investors summit will be attended by various stakeholders in the maritime sector including policy planners, domestic and international investors, CEOs of global and Indian maritime companies, industry experts, thought leaders, technology providers, bankers and insurers, representatives of major ports, etc. The event will project vast investment opportunities in each of the Indian Maritime states and Union territories.