**High Commissioner visits Ongwediva and Tsumeb**

The High Commissioner of India H.E. Shri Kumar Tuhi visited Ongwediva and Tsumeb on September 20-21, 2015. In Ongwediva, he visited the Faculty of Mining Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Namibia (UNAM), where the construction of India Wing, built with US$12.16 million grant assistance from the Government of India, has recently been completed. The High Commissioner met the Founding Dean of the Engineering and IT Deptt Professor Frank P.L. Kavishe and toured the UNAM campus.

The High Commissioner also met with the Mayor of Ongwediva His Worship Jason Asino and discussed with him the potential for cooperation in various fields. In Tsumeb, the High Commissioner visited the India-Namibia joint venture GPT-Transnamib that produces railway sleepers.

**Indian Cabinet Approves Gold Monetization Scheme**

On September 15, 2015 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for introduction of Gold Monetization Schemes (GMS), as announced in the Union Budget 2015-16. The objective of introducing the modifications in the schemes is to make the existing schemes more effective and to broaden the ambit of these schemes from merely mobilizing gold held by households and institutions in the country to putting this gold into productive use. The new scheme consists of the revamped Gold Deposit Scheme (GDS) and a revamped Gold Metal Loan (GML) Scheme.

The scheme will help in mobilizing the large amount of gold lying as an idle asset with households, trusts and various institutions in India and will provide a fillip to the gems and jewellery sector. GMS would benefit the Indian gems and jewellery sector which is a major contributor to India’s exports. In fiscal year 2014-15, gems and jewellery constituted 12% of India’s total exports and the value of gold items alone was more than US$13 billion (provisional figures). The risk of gold price changes will be borne by the Gold Reserve Fund that is being created. The benefit to the Government is in terms of reduction in the cost of borrowing, which will be transferred to the Gold Reserve Fund. The mobilized gold will also supplement RBI’s gold reserves and will help in reducing the government’s borrowing cost. Over time, the scheme is expected to reduce the country’s dependence on the import of gold.

**High Commissioner meets Mayor of Windhoek**

The High Commissioner met the Mayor of Windhoek His Worship Muesee Kazapua on September 29. During the hour long meeting, they discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation with the city of Windhoek. The High Commission also briefed the Hon’ble Mayor on recent developments in bilateral relations, including the forthcoming visit of Bhangra dance group to Windhoek from India.

**Initiatives to Encourage Tourism in India**

The Government of India has launched web-based E-ticketing for important monuments such as Tajmahal,
Agra and Humayun’s Tomb in New Delhi. Further, ASI has identified 25 model monuments (Adarsh Smarak) for e-ticketing as well as for making free public wifi available in these. Free wifi zones are available already in some tourist places of India such as Khan Market and Connaught Place, New Delhi; Shivaji Park, Navi Mumbai and Metro Station in Mumbai; (Further details on www.incredibleindia.org)

**Bhangra and Gidda Dance programme at Windhoek Zoo Park on 13 October 2015**

The Indian High Commission is partnering with the City of Windhoek and the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to bring a Bhangra and Gidda dance group to the city of Windhoek.

A pulsating performance by these dancers to enthrall the audience will be held on 13 Oct 2015 at *Windhoek Zoo Park Amphitheatre from 7-9 pm*. Those wishing to enjoy this cultural evening are requested to secure event passes (gratis) from the High Commission of India, Windhoek during 5-12 Oct (from 10-12 am and from 2:30 to 4:30 pm) and on 13 Oct (from 2-3 pm only). Contact: 061-226036 and 061-226037

**Andreas Iilende, student of IUM and ITEC Scholarship beneficiary**

International University of Management featured Andreas Iilende in IUM Voice magazine. Mr. Andreas is an ITEC Scholar who did his Diploma in Systems Analysis, a course of 6 months duration at Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi, India in 2014. Mr. Andreas Iilende says, “I had such a great experience in India. Technology is advanced there. As a matter of fact all facilities are different, I really got to experience new things. My fellow students have access to information but they are too ignorant. We browse the internet all the time but do not see the relevant things like Bursary or Scholarship adverts.”

**INDIA PHARMA 2016 and INDIA MEDICAL EXPO 2016**

The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in association with FICCI is organizing INDIA PHARMA 2016 & INDIA MEDICAL EXPO 2016 at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre from January 7-9 2016. Both expos include exhibition and seminar components along with a series of concurrent events, such as CEOs forum, Buyer-Seller meet etc. The twin events aim to project India as an attractive investment destination for international pharma and medical devices companies. The expos will see participation and display by manufacturers of formulation and bulk drugs, pharma machinery, medical electronics and devices.

**Advantage Healthcare India 2015**

Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI in association with FICCI & SEPC (Service Export Promotion Council) is organizing Advantage Healthcare India 2015, an International summit on medical value travel from 5-7 Oct 2015 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The AHCI will showcase India’s immense pool of medical capabilities as well as to create new opportunities for Indian healthcare industry by ensuring greater participation from various countries and encouraging business collaborations between Indian and foreign participants.

**2nd Progressive Punjab Investors’ Summit 2015**

The Government of Punjab will host from 28-29 Oct 2015 the second Progressive Punjab Investors’ Summit at Indian School of Business, SAS Nagar, Mohali. The summit will focus on Agro and Food processing, Life Sciences, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Education, IT, Renewable Energy and Tourism. Government of Punjab has taken rapid strides in strengthening infrastructure, up-skilling workforce and sector-specific initiatives. A single window clearance system for all regulatory and fiscal incentive related approvals has been created, called INVEST PUNJAB. The complete details about registration process etc. are available at www.progressivepunjab.gov.in.

**India Evening at Namibia Scientific Society, Windhoek**
The High Commission of India held screening of the film Incredible India- The Ages of Time & a powerpoint presentation on 2nd September 2015 for the benefit of students in Namibia detailing application procedure and eligibility criteria as well as admissible allowances etc. for the ITEC & ICCR Scholarships provided under the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme & Africa Scholarship Programme of the Government of India.

Ms. Altina Rosaria Karlos, who recently returned to Namibia after availing of the ITEC Scholarship for Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources Management at National Institute for Labour Economics Research, India, shared her achievements and experiences with the aspirants of the ITEC Scholarship. She was facilitated in India due to her exceptional academic performance during the course and briefed the scholarship hopefuls about her studies, the institutional ethos and academic environment in India.

Ms. Karlos proudly shared her Research Thesis as well as Trophy and certificates of merit with the audience.

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