Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel from July 4-6, 2017, at the invitation of H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of the State of Israel. This was the first ever visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Israel.

During the visit, PM Modi had detailed discussions with Prime Minister Netanyahu on all matters of mutual interest. PM Modi also called on the President of Israel, Mr. Reuven Rivlin on July 05, 2017.

India established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992 and since then, the relationship has evolved into a multi-dimensional partnership. This year both the countries are commemorating 25 years of diplomatic relations and the visit of P.M. provided an impetus for deeper bilateral engagement in areas of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Narinder Modi participated in the twelfth meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20), from 7-8 July 2017, at Hamburg Messe, in the city of Hamburg, Germany.

On the sidelines of the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Modi had bilateral meetings with the President of the Republic of Korea, Prime Minister of Italy, Prime Minister of Norway, Prime Minister of Japan, German Chancellor, Prime Minister of Canada, President of Argentina, Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Prime Minister of Vietnam and President of Mexico.

During the Prime Minister Modi’s meeting with Mr. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea on July 8, 2017, both the leaders expressed their commitment to further develop the special strategic partnership between India and South Korea, particularly through participation in programmes such as Make in India, Digital India, Start up India, etc.
Prime Minister Modi’s discussions with Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentolini focused on promoting bilateral relations, particularly trade and investment and people-to-people ties.

Prime Minister Modi and the Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg discussed bilateral matters, especially strengthening of economic relations. In a gesture symbolising cooperation for attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Prime Minister Solberg presented to Prime Minister Modi, at the end of the meeting, a football with SDGs inscribed on it.

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe briefly reviewed progress in bilateral relations, including important projects. Prime Minister Modi expressed satisfaction at developments in bilateral relations since their last meeting in November 2016.

Prime Minister Modi’s bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the German Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel, on the sidelines of G-20 Summit, at Hamburg, Germany on July 07, 2017.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Justin Trudeau, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, at Hamburg, Germany on July 07, 2017.
The Prime Minister Narendra Modi in bilateral meeting with the President of Argentina, Mr. Mauricio Macri, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, in Hamburg, Germany on July 08, 2017.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Mr. Theresa May, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, in Hamburg, Germany on July 08, 2017.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, in Hamburg, Germany on July 08, 2017.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Pena Nieto, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, in Hamburg, Germany on July 08, 2017.

INFORMAL BRICS LEADERS MEETING IN HAMBURG

The leaders of the 5 BRICS countries held an informal meeting on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. This was in run up to the forthcoming 9th BRICS Summit in September in Xiamen, China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned that BRICS has been a strong voice and needs to show leadership on terrorism and global economy. He stressed that G20 should collectively oppose terrorism financing, franchises, safe havens, support and sponsors. He called for expeditious action to establish BRICS rating agency and stated that cooperation on development of Africa should be a priority.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has revolutionized the Indian taxation system. The GST Act was passed in the Lok Sabha in March, 2017, and came into effect from 1st July, 2017. It is a comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax that will be levied on every value addition.
UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

7th edition of Indian Ice-cream Congress (IICE) is going to be held from 15th to 16th September 2017 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Nesco, Goregaon East. Companies providing freezing and handling machines, packaging machines and materials, equipment and component suppliers, cone manufacturers, food ingredients companies, cold chain companies especially cold rooms and deep freezers, consultancy services, traders and stockists, raw material suppliers, milk powder and chocolate suppliers, Ice Cream brand looking for expansions will participate as exhibitors in the show. To register please log on to http://tradeshows.tradeindia.com/the-architect2017/

VISIT OF CII DELEGATION TO NAMIBIA

A high level business delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Namibia from 30-31 July 2017. The delegation comprised representatives of Airports Authority of India, L&T, Sterling & Wilson, Kirloskar Brothers, Hughes Network Systems India Ltd and Acreaty Management Consultant Ltd. Prime Minister of Namibia Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila met the delegation. During this meeting, she expressed hope that the Indian companies would be able to find Namibian business partners and strengthen the bilateral economic relations. The delegation also had meetings with Ministries of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, Agriculture, Works and Transport, and Mines & Energy apart from holding meetings with Telecom Namibia, Nampower, Agribusidev and Namibia Airports Authority. A business-to-business interaction with the Namibian companies was also arranged during the visit.

RAM NATH KOVIND SWORN IN AS 14TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Mr. Ram Nath Kovind took oath as 14th President of India at a ceremony in the Central Hall of Parliament on July 25, 2017. Ram Nath Kovind won the 2017 presidential election against opposition candidate Meira Kumar, the former Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Mr. Kovind got 65.65 per cent of the total votes.