



# SANDESH

July - September  
2014





# SANDESH

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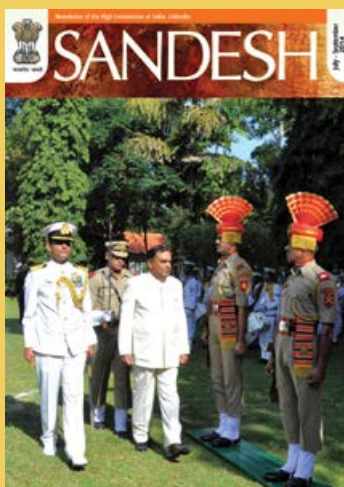
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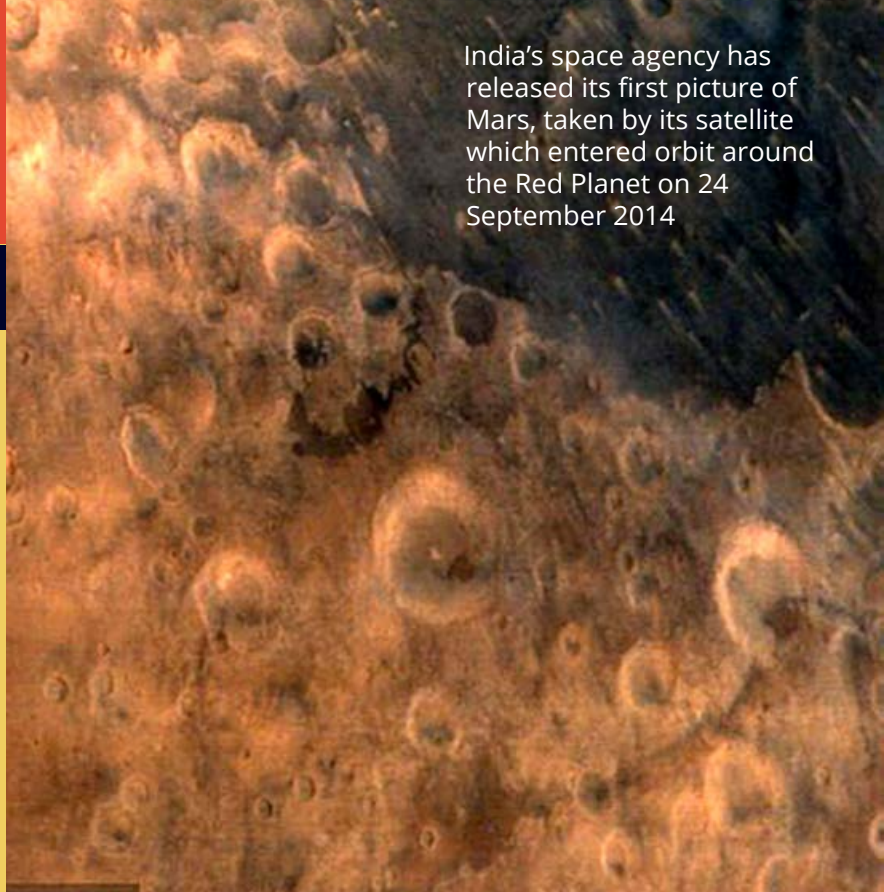
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**High Commissioner Mr. Y.K. Sinha inspected a Guard of Honour presented by the BSF contingent at flag hoisting ceremony held on Friday, 15 August 2014 at India House in Colombo**

India's space agency has released its first picture of Mars, taken by its satellite which entered orbit around the Red Planet on 24 September 2014



सत्यमेव जयते

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# Contents

## Visits

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, participates in the 6th BRICS Summit 1



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, enthralled Nepal during his visit 4

Visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India - Joint Statement 6



Visit of President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Vietnam 10

Visit of President of the People's Republic of China to India - Joint Statement 11



Melinda and Bill Gates call on Prime Minister 15

Prime Minister Launched 'Make in India' Initiative 16



Live webcast of Launch of the 'Make in India' Initiative 17

Prime Minister's visit to the USA 19



Prime Minister meets Israeli Prime Minister in New York 19

Prime Minister meets Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton 20

Prime Minister's address and interaction at Council on Foreign Relations in New York City 20

Vision Statement for the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership 20

Prime Minister meets Heads of State of SAARC nations 21

Text of the Prime Minister's Statement at the United Nations General Assembly 23



## 68th Independence Day



President's address to the nation on the eve of India's 68th Independence Day 26



Prime Minister's address to the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 68th Independence Day 28

68th Independence Day of India Celebrations in Sri Lanka 35



High Commissioner's Message on the occasion of 68th Independence Day of India 37

India Independence Day Concert: Shaan 40



Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris holds bilateral talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj 42

India to Assist the Faculty of Agriculture and Engineering at Kilinochchi 43

Contract Agreement Signed for upgrading 70 Child Development Centers in Estate Sector 44

Keynote address by the High Commissioner at the 17th Annual General Body Meeting of the Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka 45

Interview granted by High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, to The Sunday Leader 47



India For A Political Solution  
Within A United Sri Lanka  
– High Commissioner 47

Prime Minister receives  
Tamil National Alliance  
delegation 49

Inauguration of Language Lab  
set up by India in Kandy 50



## Economy

Prime Minister launches Pradhan  
Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana 51



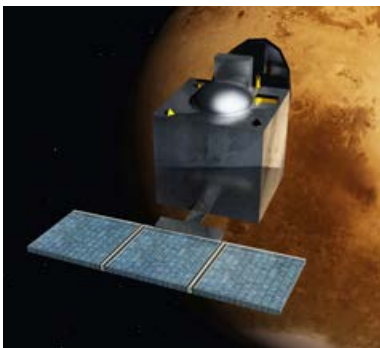
Union Budget 2014-15 Highlights 53



INDIAN ECONOMY OVERVIEW 55

## Technology

Mars Orbiter Spacecraft  
Successfully Inserted into  
Mars Orbit 57



India's farmers beating climate  
change with technology 58

## Culture

Admission to Courses in Dance  
and Music at the Indian Cultural  
Centre 60

Bharatha Natyam Recital  
by Abirami Patkunam 60

Film screening  
Yoga: Aligning to the Source 61

Bharatha Natyam Recital  
by Natyamayuri Archana  
Narayanamurthy 61

Hindustani Vocal Music Recital  
by Sanjaya Hemal  
Wahalathanthri 62

Sargam, Hindi Musical Event 63

Carnatic Vocal –Workshop  
/ Carnatic VocalPerformance 63



Bharatha Natyam Recital 64



Screening of Hindi Film "Dilwale  
Dulhania Le Jayenge" 64

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDYING  
HINDI IN INDIA 64

Screening of Hindi Film "Taare  
Zameen Par" 65

Bharatha Natyam Duet by  
Ananya and Apoorva 65

Tribute to Yogacharya  
B.K.S.lyengar 65

Screening of Hindi Film "Pinjar" 65

Hindi Diwas 2014 66

Pradeep Gunarathe  
Team Shines in India 66



# BRICS 2014

## Brasil

### Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, participates in the 6th BRICS Summit

17 July 2014

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 6th BRICS Summit held in Brazil. In his official statement before leaving for the Summit, Prime Minister expressed, "I look forward to our discussions to further advance intra-BRICS economic cooperation and our collective efforts to advance global economic stability and prosperity. In particular, I look forward to the successful conclusion of major BRICS initiatives, like the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, which have seen significant progress since their launch in New Delhi in 2012."

India attaches high importance to the BRICS forum for promoting global economic growth, peace and stability. This year, with the theme, "Inclusive Growth; Sustainable Development", the Summit will enable the participating nations to shape the post-2015 Development Agenda being discussed in the United Nations. The Prime Minister also highlighted, "For us, inclusion is a special challenge and responsibility; given our vast social, regional and economic diversity" he said.

Addressing the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, the Prime Minister called upon the member-countries of BRICS to urgently work towards addressing the challenges of global economic weakness, and political turmoil. He thanked President Zuma for his leadership during South Africa's Chairmanship of BRICS, and extended best wishes to Brazil, as it assumes the chair. He expressed India's full support in taking the BRICS agenda forward.

During his meeting with members of the BRICS Business Council, the Prime Minister said that economic forces are becoming increasingly important in global relationships, and domains like Trade, Technology, Tourism, Talent and Tradition have the power to redefine existing paradigms. He reiterated that "India remains committed to partnering with African countries in their development initiatives." He noted that various enabling agreements and MoUs have already been signed between BRICS Development Banks to promote intra-BRICS trade and investment.

A very significant step towards development of this region was setting up of the BRICS New Development Bank. It will not only benefit BRICS nations but also support other developing nations. The first CEO of the BRICS Bank will be from India.

The agreement on the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement is another major achievement.

Prime Minister also suggested the establishment of Massive Open Online Courses for making quality education accessible to all. "We could even explore the idea of a BRICS University. The vast pool of talent in BRICS could be combined to cooperate in areas like: health, education, agriculture, resource management and urban development. Other areas to focus are affordable healthcare platform of BRICS nations, a mechanism to further cooperation, between our Small and Medium enterprises and a common framework for promoting Tourism among BRICS countries," he pointed.





Ansari, to China and the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi to India as President Jinping's Special Envoy, in June 2014.

The PM suggested opening of a second route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

China invited India to APEC meeting in November and called for India to deepen engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

### **Prime Minister meets Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff**

During their meeting at the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, both the Indian Prime Minister and the Brazilian President called for expanding bilateral ties, and stress on the need for reform of the United Nations

Describing Brazil as a key global partner for India, Prime Minister noted that as two democracies and major emerging economies, India and Brazil not only had vast potential for bilateral cooperation, but also to strengthen each other in international fora and advance the interest of the developing world at large.

President Rousseff emphasized the special place this relationship enjoyed in Brazil's foreign policy, because of the potential for bilateral cooperation and the international significance of their partnership.

The two leaders also agreed to take steps to further expand and diversify trade and investment flows and deepen cooperation in agriculture and dairy science, conventional and renewable energy, space



Prime Minister expressed that the region stretching from Afghanistan to Africa is experiencing turbulence and conflict. He said, "This is causing grave instability that is fast seeping across borders. This impacts us all. Remaining mute spectators to countries being torn up in this manner can have grave consequences."

Speaking about the issue of Terrorism, he said "Terrorism is a threat that has assumed war-like proportions. It is in fact a proxy war aimed at innocent civilians. Due to different yardsticks the international community has not been able to combat terror effectively." There should be Zero Tolerance towards Terrorism and this was categorically affirmed by the Prime Minister.

"BRICS must translate our political resolve into a concrete and coordinated Plan of Action. I call for an early adoption by the UN, of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. BRICS is in a position today where it wields enough horizontal influence to compel the world to take notice," he noted.

### **Prime Minister meets Chinese President, Xi Jinping on the sidelines of BRICS Summit**

The Prime Minister met the Chinese President, Xi Jinping at the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. The two leaders discussed that India and China have enormous opportunities to not only forge mutually beneficial partnerships, but also serve as catalytic agents of Asian and global prosperity. President Xi Jinping underscored the importance of the bilateral relationship and said: "When India and China meet, the whole world watches."

They expressed satisfaction at the high momentum of bilateral engagement during the past few weeks, including the visit of Vice-President of India Shri Hamid





research and applications, defence, cyber security and environment conservation. They also agreed to intensify their cooperation in international forums and multilateral institutions, including the G20.

Prime Minister expressed hope that he would be able to visit Brazil on a full bilateral visit soon and invited President Rousseff to visit India.

A total of 3 MoUs were signed between the two countries.

- MoU on cooperation in the field of environment
- Implementing arrangement establishing cooperation in augmentation of a Brazilian earth station for receiving and processing data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites
- MoU on cooperation in the field of mobility and consular issues.

#### **Prime Minister meets Russian President Vladimir Putin**

Prime Minister also met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. He conveyed his sincere appreciation and admiration for President Putin's decisive leadership in deepening and expanding the India-Russia special and privileged strategic partnership.

Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for Russia's friendship and unstinting bilateral and international support for India's economic development and security since the early days of India's independence. He reaffirmed that relations with Russia will continue to enjoy the priority in India's foreign policy. He said he looks forward to working with President Putin to further deepen and broad-base the strategic partnership including in the areas of defence, nuclear energy, space, energy, trade and investment, people-to-people contacts and addressing regional and global challenges.

The two leaders looked forward to their Annual Summit in Delhi in December 2014 as an opportunity to outline a bold vision and road map for their relationship in the years ahead.

#### **Meeting with South American leaders**

Prime Minister underlined the fact that South America has tremendous potential. It is blessed, with vast resources and talent. It can become an important pillar of the global economy. In the face of economic uncertainty its growth can be crucial for global prosperity. He said, "In a globalised and inter-connected world, our destinies are inter-linked. We are all bound, by shared aspirations and common challenges. We all have a stake in each other's success."

He enumerated that we must all unite:

- To seek faster growth and newer avenues of generating prosperity
- To find solutions to the challenge of poverty.
- To preserve our environment, and use our resources well.

With a hope that the discussion would throw up new ideas for partnership between BRICS and South America, he invited more ideas from all the nations participating.

He noted that India's trade with South America has shown strong growth in recent years. There is however scope to achieve a lot more. From hydrocarbons to pharma, textiles to leather, engineering goods to automobiles; the range of opportunities is enormous. The Preferential Trade Agreement between India and the MERCOSUR Trade Block, and Chile, must be utilized more effectively, he affirmed.

He said, "I firmly believe, the possibilities of cooperation are limited not by distance but only by our imagination and efforts. We have much to learn from each other, in our journey towards inclusive and sustainable development. We must share with each other, our experiences, best practices and innovative solutions."

Therefore, the visit of the Prime Minister to Brazil witnessed increased diplomatic activity and expanded avenues of cooperation with the world and this will help the people of India in the years to come.

*Courtesy: [www.narendramodi.in](http://www.narendramodi.in)*



# Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi enthralled Nepal by his visit

05 August 2014



In yet another positive step towards improving bi-lateral relations with India's neighbouring countries, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, embarked on a two day (3-4 August 2014) visit to Nepal. He was formally invited by the Government of Nepal in order to speed-up the negotiations and strengthen the relations. "This is the land of Sita and Janak, Nepal-India relations are as old as the Himalayas and the Ganga," Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said during his two day visit to Nepal.

## Prior to his departure for Nepal

Prime Minister expressed his feelings before his visit to the Himalayan Kingdom. He was glad that within weeks of assuming office as Prime Minister, he got the chance to visit the country. "My visit reflects our shared heritage of nature, history, culture, spiritualism and religion. It highlights the high priority that my Government attaches to our relations with Nepal and our determination to take our relationship to an entirely new level," he said before leaving for the visit.

This is the first bi-lateral visit to Nepal by an Indian Prime Minister in last 17 years.

On his plans for the visit, he said, "During my visit, I will have the opportunity to hold detailed discussions with the Nepalese leadership on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. I look forward to working with the leadership of Nepal to forge a new relationship for the new century between our two rapidly transforming countries." He further added, "We will identify steps to strengthen our bilateral cooperation in key sectors, including trade and investment, hydro power, agriculture and agro-processing, environment, tourism, education, culture



and sports. I will also discuss with Nepalese leadership and their business leaders how we can harness the full potential of the new digital age to empower and create new opportunities for the youth of the two countries".

## Two day visit to Nepal

Prime Minister accompanied by the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh, is the first foreign leader to address the Nepalese constituent assembly-cum-parliament on Sunday, 3rd, August 2014.

Prime Minister of Nepal Shri Sushil Koirala, who graced his Indian counterpart's swearing-in ceremony with his presence, received Shri Modi at the Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu.

Recalling his previous visits to the country as a pilgrim, he said in Nepali language before continuing his speech in Hindi, "I have returned to this beautiful country as a friend and I am happy to come here as Prime Minister".





He undoubtedly created a wave of euphoria amongst the Nepalese people as he started his address to the Parliament in Nepali language.

Talking about the trip, he added, "Since the day I entered the Prime Minister's office, strengthening relationship with Nepal is one of the top priorities of my government".

### Addressing the Nepalese Parliament

While addressing the Nepalese Parliament, Shri Modi announced Rs 10,000 crore as concessional line of credit to Nepal. The man who has all the formulae for development, also proposed a HIT formula for the development of the land-locked country endowed with rich hydropower potential. By HIT, the Indian Prime Minister meant – H:Highways, I:I-ways and T:Transways. Shri Modi said, "these three combined together would pave the way for rapid development of the country and India wants to give this gift at the earliest."

Shri Narendra Modi held talks with Nepal Prime Minister Shri Koirala and Shri Mahendra Bahadur Pandey,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal in Kathmandu .

"Modi is result-oriented and gives priority to economic prosperity. He wants to consolidate ties with Nepal," Foreign Minister, Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, said after the meeting.

According to Nepal Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Advisor, Dinesh Bhattarai, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said to Koirala, "My visit is focussed on development and a new beginning between the two countries," in the presence of Indian and Nepali government figures and officials.

Shri Narendra Modi assured Nepal Prime Minister that the ongoing peace process in Nepal would be concluded as per Nepal's requirements as it is completely a Nepali matter.

In the presence of the Prime Ministers of both the countries, the officials signed three memorandum of understanding (MoU) –

- Tourism development in Nepal
- Goitre Control Programme in Nepal,
- Co-operation between the state-controlled television channels – Doordarshan and Nepal Television (NTV)

They also exchanged terms of reference (ToR) on Pancheshwar Development Authority.

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi offered a credit line of \$1 billion to the Himalayan nation for road and hydro-power projects.

Prime Minister also expressed his hopes for the India-Nepal relationship to serve as a "model and catalyst" for South Asian partnership for prosperity.

Shri Narendra Modi offered prayers at the famous Pashupati Temple on Monday, 4th August 2014.

*Courtesy: [www.narendramodi.in](http://www.narendramodi.in)*





# Visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India - Joint Statement

05 September 2014

1. The Prime Minister of Australia Mr Tony Abbott paid a State Visit to India from 4-5 September, 2014 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
2. Prime Minister Abbott was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 5 September, 2014. He laid a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat and also laid a wreath at India Gate.
3. Prime Minister Modi held talks with Prime Minister Abbott on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. Prime Minister Abbott called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and received External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj. Prime Minister Abbott also visited Mumbai where he called on Governor Shri C. Vidyasagar Rao. He met with Indian business leaders in Mumbai and Delhi. Four Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding were concluded and significant initiatives launched during the visit.
6. The Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement as a concrete symbol of the bilateral partnership. They noted the Agreement would enable the sale of Australian uranium to support India's growing energy needs and directed the negotiators to conclude the Administrative Arrangements at an early date.

## Economic Engagement

## Bilateral Cooperation

4. The Prime Ministers welcomed the rapid growth in bilateral relations in recent years, anchored in shared values, expanding economic engagement, converging strategic interests and a growing shared agenda in regional and multilateral institutions.
5. The Prime Ministers affirmed their commitment to strengthening the bilateral Strategic Partnership and taking it to a new level of mutual trust.
7. The Prime Ministers underlined the priority they attached to building the economic partnership, which was a pillar of the relationship. They recommitted both countries to expand trade further for mutual benefit and as a long term and sustainable boost to economic growth in both countries. They agreed there was significant scope to boost investment and collaboration in both directions in infrastructure, resources, agriculture, manufacturing, health, education and other sectors to increase efficiencies, introduce new technologies and develop innovation and skills.
8. Prime Minister Abbott welcomed growing Indian investment in Australia and underlined Australia's commitment to providing a stable investment environment and streamlined approvals process. Prime Minister Modi too welcomed Australian investments in a range of infrastructure, resources, technology and other projects in India.
9. The Prime Ministers welcomed the progress towards a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) would support a significant





expansion of two-way trade and investment. They renewed the commitment of both countries for an early conclusion of an equitable, balanced, comprehensive and high quality agreement.

10. The Prime Ministers noted the expanding bilateral dialogue on economic policy, including in areas such as taxation, competition, financial sector regulation and infrastructure.
11. The Prime Ministers welcomed the delegation of senior Australian business leaders who had accompanied Prime Minister Abbott on his visit. They agreed that economic engagement and business partnerships should be strengthened through a revitalised CEO Forum and encouraged regular exchange of business and trade missions and the convening of an India-Australia Business Summit in Delhi in early 2015.

### **Defence and Security Cooperation**

12. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their desire for a peaceful, prosperous and stable Asia-Pacific region, underpinned by cooperative mechanisms. They emphasised their interest in building closer cooperation in the maritime domain.
13. The Prime Ministers committed to strengthening the defence and security partnership. They welcomed growing cooperation in defence, counter-terrorism, cyber policy, transnational crime, disarmament and non-proliferation, humanitarian assistance, disaster management and peacekeeping. They called for deepening the framework of defence and security cooperation to guide the bilateral engagement in these and other priority areas.
14. The Prime Ministers welcomed preparations for the inaugural bilateral maritime exercise to be held in 2015 and initiatives under way to further strengthen defence cooperation, including closer engagement and cooperation in defence science and industry. They also explored joint participation in events commemorating World War I. On behalf of the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, Prime Minister Abbott extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to attend the

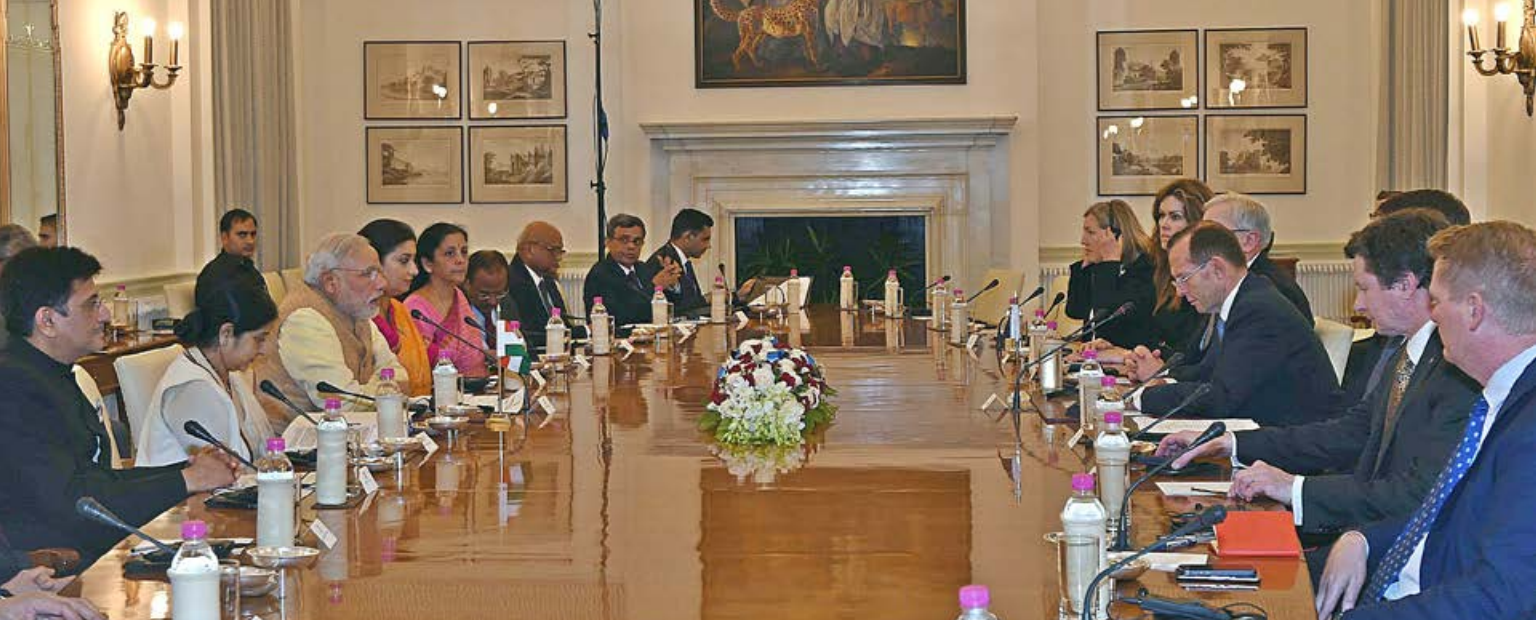
commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of Gallipoli in 2015.

15. The Prime Ministers, noting that both Australians and Indians have been victims of terrorism, commended the work of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, including discussions on cyber security and the growing collaboration against the threat posed by terrorist groups. They noted the ongoing cooperation in combating illegal migration.
16. The Prime Ministers, noting the importance of the maritime dimension, welcomed discussions on maritime security in the ongoing disarmament and non-proliferation dialogue held at the level of officials.

### **Cooperation in Energy, Science, Water, Education and Skills**

17. The Prime Ministers agreed to deepen the cooperation between both countries on energy security through a Ministerial-level dialogue. They agreed to develop a strategic partnership on energy and resources based on long-term, sustainable and reliable supply of Australian resources based on India's energy needs. They agreed that cooperation on energy - extending to coal, LNG, renewables and uranium-and on resources such as iron ore, copper and gold were key elements of the relationship and committed to intensifying these links.
18. The Prime Ministers welcomed the success of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund, which has provided a high impact knowledge partnership through science and technology cooperation, and announced an extension of the Fund for a further period of four years on the basis of matching commitments and reciprocity with an increasing focus on commercialisation of research outcomes.
19. The Prime Ministers welcomed increasing collaboration on the challenge of managing scarce water resources and river basin management and announced an extension of the MoU on water cooperation. Prime Minister Modi welcomed Australia's offer to support India's Ganga





rejuvenation efforts.

20. The Prime Ministers agreed to expand high quality knowledge partnerships in education, skills and research that support mutual efforts towards greater economic and social progress. They noted its vital role and contribution to India's national goals for innovation, productivity and growth.
21. The Prime Ministers welcomed the collaborations between Universities and called for efforts to enlarge the scope for joint research, joint Ph. D. programmes and joint degrees and commended the work of the Australia-India Education Council (AIEC) in advancing education, training and research partnerships. Prime Minister Modi expressed appreciation for the continuing efforts of Australian authorities to ensure the welfare and security of Indian students studying in Australia.
22. The Prime Ministers welcomed the increasing collaboration to develop a quality skills training framework in India. Prime Minister Abbott underlined Australia's commitment to supporting the up-skilling of India's workforce, including through Australia's world class vocational education and training (VET) capabilities. The Prime Ministers welcomed partnerships between India's Sector Skills Councils and Australia's Industry Skills Councils in key industry areas.
23. The Prime Ministers welcomed the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan initiative, under which young Australian students would study in institutions in India, thereby furthering youth and academic exchanges and promoting contacts.

### **Regional and international cooperation**

24. The Prime Ministers discussed the importance of consolidating the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. Prime Minister Abbott briefed Prime Minister Modi on Australia's priorities as host of the G20 in 2014 and underlined Australia's interest in working closely with India to lift ambition and ensure the G20 delivers economic growth, jobs and a resilient global economy. Prime Minister Modi appreciated Australia's chairmanship and underlined India's

commitment to the G20's successful contribution to ensuring strong, sustainable and balanced growth of the global economy.

25. The Prime Ministers recognised the importance of the East Asia Summit (EAS) as the pre-eminent regional forum for addressing strategic, political and economic issues. They welcomed increased bilateral collaboration in the EAS, with India and Australia co-chairing the Taskforce on Access to Quality Medicines under the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance.
26. The Prime Ministers acknowledged ongoing cooperation in other regional bodies such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Asia Europe Meeting. Prime Minister Abbott reiterated Australia's support for India's membership of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC).
27. The Prime Ministers highlighted the concrete steps towards more effective practical cooperation in the Indian Ocean Regional Association (IORA) and noted that India and Australia would work closely to further strengthen the organisation in the six priority areas of maritime security and piracy, fisheries management; disaster risk reduction; tourism and cultural exchanges, academic and S&T cooperation, and trade and investment facilitation. Both countries look forward to taking this collaboration to a higher level at the next Council of Ministers meeting in Perth in October 2014.
28. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of reform of the UN, including the Security Council, to better reflect contemporary realities. Prime Minister Modi welcomed Australia's continuing support for India as a permanent member in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

### **People to People and cultural Links**

29. The Prime Ministers highlighted the importance of bilateral parliamentary exchanges and agreed to reinvigorate reciprocal visits by parliamentary delegations.
30. Underlining the importance of greater connectivity to support growing commercial and cultural ties,

including in the education and tourism sectors, the Prime Ministers welcomed the commencement of direct Air India flights to Australia. Noting the growing numbers of tourists travelling in both directions, they welcomed the decision to commence negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism.

31. The Prime Ministers noted progress in negotiations on the Social Security Agreement and called for early conclusion. Noting the importance of promoting exchanges, particularly among the youth, they also called for discussions on a Work and Holiday Visa Agreement.
32. The Prime Ministers recognized that rapidly growing people-to-people links underpin our developing partnership and will enable both countries to build even stronger relations into the future. They noted with appreciation that the Indian community is contributing significantly to the economic and social life of Australia, with India now the largest source of skilled migrants to Australia.
33. The Prime Ministers noted that arts, culture and sports can be powerful forces for bringing people together and called for closer and more intensified exchanges in the fields of culture and creative arts, including visiting exhibitions and professional training and exchanges. They welcomed the establishment of ICCR Chairs of Indian Studies in five Universities in Australia to promote academic and student exchanges and Australia's support in the establishment of a Nalanda University Chair in Environmental Studies. They also welcomed the signing of an MoU on Sports Cooperation that

would facilitate greater exchanges, including on sports training.

34. The Prime Ministers welcomed progress on negotiations for an Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons and looked forward to its early conclusion.

### Agreements

35. The following bilateral memorandum of understanding were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers:
  - i. Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy
  - ii. MOU on cooperation in Sport
  - iii. Renewal of MOU on cooperation in the field of Water Resources Management
  - iv. MoU on Cooperation in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
36. Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott renewed his invitation to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to visit Australia. Prime Minister Modi accepted the invitation to undertake a bilateral visit to Australia at the time of the G20 Summit in November 2014. Both sides agreed that the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Australia will lead to strengthening of the cooperative relations between the two countries, and will provide further impetus for the future development of the strategic partnership.





# Visit of Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Vietnam

14 - 17 September 2014

The President Pranab Mukherjee was visited the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 14 to 17 September 2014. During his visit, he held bilateral talks with President Truong Tan Sang and met Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Tan Dung. They exchanged views on the socio-economic developments and foreign policy of their respective countries, bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The Presidents jointly inaugurated the Center for Indian Studies at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and Public Administration. India also will commence the restoration work of the Cham Monument at My Son in Vietnam.

President visited cultural and historical sites as well as interacted with the common people.

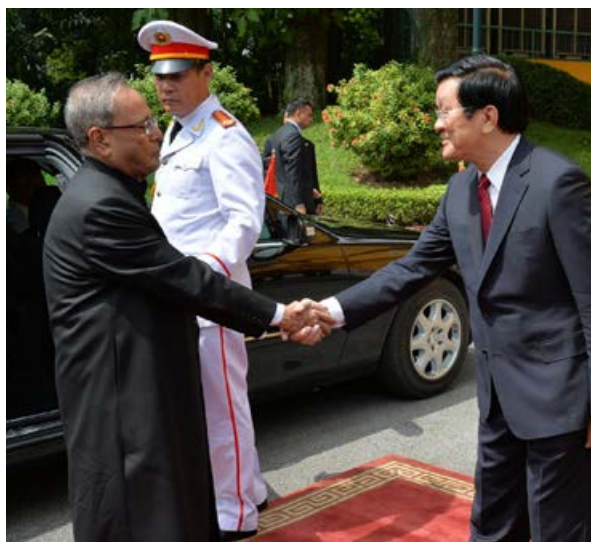
He gifted a sapling of the Holy Bodhi Tree from Bodhi Gaya to Vietnam President Truong Tan Sang, which is a symbol of shared Buddhist heritage between the two

countries. He also visited the Tran Quoc Pagoda where a Bodhi tree was planted by the first President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad in 1959.

He visited the War Remnants Museum and Cu Chi Tunnels in Ho Chi Minh City which record and demonstrate the stubborn spirit and courage of the Vietnamese people who have emerged victorious against tremendous odds.

President Pranab Mukherjee invited the Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung to India and he is scheduled to visit India in October 2014.

Both the countries concluded 7 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) which will provide the institutional framework for mutually beneficial exchanges. The signed pacts will enhance the diplomatic relations and partnership of two countries.





# Visit of President of the People's Republic of China to India - Joint Statement

17 - 19 September 2014

1. At the invitation of H.E. Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, is on a state visit to India from 17 to 19 September 2014. During the visit, President Xi Jinping met with President Pranab Mukherjee and held talks with H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.
2. The leaders evaluated positively the progress of India-China relations over the recent years, and noted that both sides always consider their relations from a strategic and overall perspective. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to abide by the principles and consensus both had agreed to, and further consolidate the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and mutual respect and sensitivities for each other's concerns and aspirations. They agreed that as two large developing and emerging economies, their developmental goals are interlinked and should be pursued in a mutually supportive manner. Recognizing that their respective growth processes are mutually reinforcing, they agreed to leverage mutual complementarities and build a closer developmental partnership. The leaders agreed to make this developmental partnership a core component of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. This developmental partnership is conducive not only to the common interests of both sides, but also to stability and prosperity of the region and the world.
3. The two sides decided to strengthen political communication, deepen strategic trust as well as intensify political dialogue and consultations at all levels. With this objective, they also agreed upon regular visits at the level of Heads of State/ Government. The leaders of the two countries will continue to meet on the side-lines of multilateral fora as frequently as possible. President Xi Jinping welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's early visit to China. Prime Minister Modi thanked President Xi Jinping for that and said he accepted the invitation from the Chinese side with pleasure and looked forward to visiting China at an early date.
4. The leaders assigned the Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) to explore new areas for economic cooperation in crosscutting fields including industrial investment, infrastructure development, energy conservation and environment protection, high-tech industry, clean energy and sustainable urbanization. The SED will explore designing joint demonstration projects and initiatives in smart cities. In this regard, it was agreed that a city in each country would be identified for a smart city demonstration project.
5. At its 10th meeting held recently, the India-China Joint Economic Group reaffirmed its determination to expand and diversify bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The two sides agreed to take positive steps towards rebalancing bilateral trade and addressing the existing structural imbalance in trade that has a bearing



on its sustainability. Such measures will include cooperation on pharmaceutical supervision including registration, speedier phytosanitary negotiations on agro-products for two-way trade, stronger links between Indian IT companies and Chinese enterprises, and increasing services trade in tourism, films, healthcare, IT and logistics. India appreciated China's willingness to import greater number of Indian films for commercial release in its market. The two sides signed the Five-Year Development Program for Economic and Trade Cooperation that lays out a roadmap for comprehensively deepening and balancing bilateral economic engagement.

6. The Chinese side announced the establishment of two industrial parks in India, one in Gujarat and one in Maharashtra. The Chinese side would also endeavor to realize an investment of US\$ 20 billion in India in the next 5 years in various industrial and infrastructure development projects. India welcomes Chinese enterprises to participate in its manufacturing and infrastructure projects. Each side will also facilitate companies of the other to invest and operate in their own country. The two sides will work together to forge production and supply chain linkages, which will help develop a more broad-based and sustainable economic partnership.

financial regulators. The Indian side approved, in principle, the request of the Bank of China to open a branch in Mumbai, for which the Chinese side expressed its appreciation.

9. The two sides agreed to initiate a dialogue mechanism between the Department of Economic Affairs of the Government of India and the Development Research Centre of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.
10. As large developing countries committed to promoting the use of clean energy, India and China believe that expansion of civil nuclear energy program is an essential component of their national energy plans to ensure energy security. The two sides will carry out bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy in line with their respective international commitments, including working level consultations between the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the China Atomic Energy Authority.
11. Recognizing deep civilizational linkages between India and China, the two sides agreed to launch the India-China Cultural Exchange Initiative with a view to further promoting the bonds of cultural and people-to-people contacts. Key elements of this will include:



7. The leaders also noted with appreciation the progress achieved in railways cooperation and conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding and Implementation Plan on Cooperation in Railways. It was agreed that: (i) the two sides will cooperate to identify the technical inputs required to increase speed on the existing railway line from Chennai to Mysore via Bangalore; (ii) the Chinese side will provide training in heavy haul for 100 Indian railway officials; (iii) the two sides will cooperate in areas such as redevelopment of existing railway stations and establishment of a railway university in India; and (iv) the Indian side will actively consider cooperating with the Chinese side on a High Speed Rail project.
8. The two sides agreed to hold the 7th India-China Financial Dialogue in New Delhi this year to enhance cooperation between Indian and Chinese financial regulators. The Indian side approved, in principle, the request of the Bank of China to open a branch in Mumbai, for which the Chinese side expressed its appreciation.
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  - i. The leaders decided to designate 2015 as the "Visit India Year" in China and 2016 as the "Visit China Year" in India. Under this, the two sides will carry out a series of promotional activities to boost two-way tourism flows and strengthen people-to-people bonds. The Chinese side agreed to assist India to promote its tourism products and routes in China, which are related to the historical travels of the Chinese monk-scholar Xuan Zang to India in the 7th century AD.
  - ii. Recognizing the significance of youth exchanges in increasing mutual understanding, the leaders agreed to continue with the annual exchange of 200 youth from 2015 to 2019.
  - iii. An MoU was signed to provide the framework



for exchanges between the museums and other cultural institutions of the two countries. An exhibition of Indian Buddhist Art and another exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art will be organized in China in 2014-15. Similar exhibitions will travel from China to India. China will be the partner country at the Delhi International Book Fair 2016.

- iv. The two sides agreed to establish ministerial level consultations to intensify cooperation in the field of culture.
  - v. The project on mutual translation of classics and contemporary works will be speeded up.
  - vi. The two sides will collaborate to strengthen exchanges in movies, broadcasting and television shows. An Audio-Visual Co-production MoU was signed to facilitate joint production of movies. China will be the guest country at the Indian International Film Festival 2014.
  - vii. The two sides will mutually support the teaching of Indian languages in China and of Chinese language in India.
12. The agreements on establishing a provincial partnership between Gujarat and Guangdong Province and Sister-City relationships between Mumbai-Shanghai and Ahmedabad-Guangzhou were signed.
  13. The Indian side appreciated the support and cooperation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the local government of Tibet Autonomous Region of the People`s Republic of China to Indian pilgrims for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra (Gang Renpoche and Mapam Yun Tso Pilgrimage). For further promotion of the two countries` religious exchange and facilitating the Indian pilgrims, and upon the request of the Indian side, the Chinese side decided to open a new route for the Yatra through Nathu La Pass, for which the Indian side expressed its welcome and appreciation.
  14. The Indian side expressed appreciation to China for providing flood-season hydrological data and the assistance in emergency management. The two sides will further strengthen cooperation

through the Expert-Level Mechanism on the provision of flood-season hydrological data and emergency management, and exchange views on other issues of mutual interest.

15. Both sides reiterated their willingness to proactively resolve all outstanding differences based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence through friendly negotiation without letting them affect the overall development of bilateral relations. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to consolidate the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity on the basis of the principle of mutual and equal security and mutual sensitivity for each other`s concerns and aspirations.
16. During the visit, the two sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question and reiterated their commitment to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution, proceeding from the overall interests of bilateral relations. Recalling the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the Boundary Question signed in April 2005, both sides reiterated their commitment to an early settlement of the boundary question and expressed their conviction that this will advance basic interests of the two countries and shall, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective. They reaffirmed the utility and significance of the mechanism of Special Representatives for seeking a political settlement of the boundary question and of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs for handling border related matters.
17. Peace and tranquility on the India-China border areas was recognized as an important guarantor for the development and continued growth of bilateral relations. Pending a final resolution of the boundary question, the two sides would continue to make joint efforts to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.
18. The two sides noted that improved bilateral military ties are conducive to building mutual trust and confidence. Both sides agreed to a regular exchange of visits between the defence ministries and military leaders, so as to expand pragmatic cooperation in the relevant fields. They also agreed





- to hold the fourth joint army training at a mutually convenient time, hold navy/airforce joint exercise at a proper time, and strengthen cooperation in such areas as peace-keeping, counter-terrorism, naval escort, maritime security, humanitarian rescue, disaster mitigation, personnel training, and think tank communication.
19. The two sides decided to hold the first round of maritime cooperation dialogue within this year to exchange views on maritime affairs and security, including anti-piracy, freedom of navigation and cooperation between maritime agencies of both countries. They also agreed to hold the consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at an early date.
  20. The two sides noted the progress made in promoting cooperation under the framework of the BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar) Economic Corridor. Both sides recalled the first meeting of the Joint Study Group of BCIM Economic Corridor and agreed to continue their respective efforts to implement understandings reached at the meeting.
  21. The two sides believe that the 21st century should be marked by peace, security, development and cooperation. As developing countries, India and China have common interests on several issues of global importance like climate change, Doha Development Round of WTO, energy and food security, reform of the international financial institutions and global governance. This is reflected in close cooperation and coordination between the two sides within the BRICS, G-20 and other fora.
  22. The promotion of a multi-polar world, economic globalization, cultural diversity and information revolution are high on the global agenda. The two sides will make joint efforts to democratize international relations and strengthen the central role of the United Nations in promoting global peace, security and development.
  23. The two sides support a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including recognizing the imperative of increased participation of developing countries in UN's affairs and governance structures, so as to bring more effectiveness to the UN. China attaches great importance to India's status in international affairs as a large developing country, and understands and supports India's aspiration to play a greater role in the United Nations including in the Security Council.
  24. Both sides reiterated their resolute opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with 'zero tolerance', and committed themselves to cooperate on counter-terrorism. They also emphasized the need to implement all relevant UN resolutions, in particular UNSC resolutions 1267, 1373, 1540 and 1624.
  25. The two sides recognized that climate change is a common concern of mankind and one of the greatest global challenges in the 21st century, which needs to be addressed through international cooperation and in the context of sustainable development. The two sides will work together with other countries to advance the multilateral negotiation to achieve a balanced, comprehensive and equitable agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, with a view to enhancing the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention in the post-2020 period. The two sides reaffirmed that the 2015 agreement shall be in full accordance with the principles, provisions and structure of the Convention, in particular the principle of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
  26. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the enhanced bilateral engagement at the working level on wide-ranging issues of regional and global significance. Bilateral consultations on Afghanistan, West Asia, Africa, Central Asia and Counter-terrorism have already been held and found to be meaningful.
  27. The Asia-Pacific region plays an increasingly important role in global affairs. The two sides are of the view that the current priority of this region is to maintain peace and stability of the region, promote regional common development, and establish an open, transparent, equal and inclusive framework of security and cooperation based on the observance of the basic principles of international law. The two sides support multilateral cooperation mechanisms in Asia and agree to broaden cooperation in the relevant regional organizations.
  28. President Xi Jinping expressed his appreciation to the government and people of India for their warm hospitality. President Xi Jinping invited President Pranab Mukherjee to visit China at a mutually convenient time. President Pranab Mukherjee accepted the invitation with pleasure.

# Melinda and Bill Gates call on the Prime Minister

19 September 2014

The famous American philanthropist, Mr. Bill Gates called on the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 19 September 2014. He was accompanied by Mrs. Melinda Gates.

Mr. Bill Gates praised the Prime Minister's emphasis on community sanitation initiatives, and in particular, applauded the Prime Minister's focus on sanitation as a critical driver of child health, and a prominent factor in the safety and dignity of women and girls.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana also came up for discussion, with Bill and Melinda Gates appreciating the Prime Minister's prioritization of financial inclusion, and expressing support for his vision for access to financial services for all.

Mr. Bill Gates also appreciated India's efforts in introducing four critical new vaccines in its Universal Immunization Programme. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation expressed keenness to continue its

partnership with India in this area.

The Prime Minister praised the spirit of philanthropy and public good, with which the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been working. He appreciated the Foundation's efforts in healthcare in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and discussed with them how these efforts could be integrated with the existing programmes of the Government. Bill and Melinda Gates also appreciated the improvement in institutional delivery by involving public and private sector health facilities in the State of Gujarat.

The Prime Minister shared with Bill and Melinda Gates, his ideas for the innovative use of technology for waste water management to irrigate peri-urban land and encourage organic farming.

Creating awareness about nutrition among adolescent girls was also discussed.







## Prime Minister Launched 'Make in India' initiative

24 September 2014

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched "Make in India" initiative on 25th September 2014 from Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The launch was at both national level, state level and in Missions abroad. The 'Make in India' initiative has its origin in the Prime Minister's Independence Day speech where he gave a clarion call to 'Make in India' and 'Zero Defect; Zero Effect' policy. State Governments, Business Chambers, Indian Missions abroad are playing an active role in the launch of the initiative.

The Government is committed to chart out a new path wherein business entities are extended red carpet welcome in a spirit of active cooperation. Invest India will act as the first reference point for guiding foreign investors on all aspects of regulatory and policy issues and to assist them in obtaining regulatory clearances. The Government is closely looking into all regulatory processes with a view to making them simple and reducing the burden of compliance on investors.

A dedicated cell has been created to answer queries

from business entities through a newly created web portal ([www.makeinindia.com](http://www.makeinindia.com)). While an exhaustive set of FAQs on this portal will help the investor find instant answers to their general queries, the back-end support team of the cell would be answering specific queries within 72 hours. A pro-active approach will be deployed to track visitors for their geographical location, interest and real time user behaviour. Subsequent visits will be customised for the visitor based on the information collected. Visitors registered on the website or raising queries will be followed up with relevant information and newsletter. Investor facilitation cell will provide assistance to the foreign investors from the time of their arrival in the country to the time of their departure. The initiative will also target top companies across sectors in identified countries.

The 'Make in India' initiative also aims at identifying select domestic companies having leadership in innovation and new technology for turning them into global champions. The focus will be on promoting green and advanced manufacturing and helping these companies to become an important part of the global value chain.

The Government has identified 25 key sectors in which our country has the potential of becoming a world leader. The Prime Minister will be releasing separate brochures for these sectors along with a general brochure. The brochures covering sectors like automobiles, chemicals, IT, pharmaceuticals, textiles, ports, aviation, leather, tourism and hospitality, wellness, railways among others will provide details of growth drivers, investment opportunities, sector specific FDI and other policies and related agencies.

Since the new Government took over, a series of initiatives have been taken to revitalise the industrial sector in general and manufacturing sector in particular. To mention a few:

- The process of applying for Industrial License and Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum has been made online on the e-Biz website 24 x 7;



सत्यमेव जयते

The Make in India logo is derived from India's national emblem. The wheel denotes peaceful progress and dynamism – a sign from India's enlightened past, pointing the way to a vibrant future. The prowling lion stands for strength, courage, tenacity and wisdom – values that are every bit as Indian today as they have ever been.



- A vast number of Defence items have been de-licensed;
- The validity of Industrial license has been extended to three years;
- With a view to providing flexibility in working hours and increased intake of apprentices for on the job training, the Government has decided to amend a number of labour laws;
- An advisory has been sent to all Departments/ State Governments to simplify and rationalize regulatory environment which includes:
  - on-line filing of all returns in a unified form;
  - no inspection without the approval of the Head of the Department, etc.

Recently the Foreign Direct Investment policy has been liberalized. 100% FDI under automatic route has been permitted in construction, operation and maintenance in specified Rail Infrastructure projects; FDI in Defence liberalized from 26% to 49%. In cases of modernization of state-of-art proposals, FDI can go up to 100%; the

norms for FDI in the Construction Development sector are being eased.

The Government is committed to improving the physical infrastructure. Development of dedicated freight corridors and investment in improving our ports and airports are underway. These corridors would house Industrial agglomerations along with smart cities. The private sector would be playing a significant role in these developmental works.

For the manufacturing sector to take advantage of the improved physical infrastructure, the need for having a strong human capital is recognized. Government's effort would be to equip the working age population with the right kinds of skill so that the manufacturing sector finds them employable. One of the first decisions that the new Government has taken is to set up a separate Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Various prominent National and International industry leaders are likely to attend the programme to launch the campaign along with Ministers, senior officials, Ambassadors and opinion leaders.



## Live webcast of Launch of the 'Make in India' initiative

25 September 2014

Prime Minister of India, launched the 'Make in India' initiative on September 25, 2014 in New Delhi. Prime Minister also unveiled the logo of 'Make in India' campaign. In addition, a newly created website [www.makeinindia.com](http://www.makeinindia.com) was launched by the Prime Minister. As part of this initiative, a dedicated cell has been created to answer queries from business entities through this web portal. While an exhaustive set of

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on this portal will help investors find instant answers to their general queries, the back-end support team of the cell would be answering specific queries within 72 hours. A total of 25 sectors have been identified, which will be given a special thrust under this initiative.

- The launch was webcast live by the High Commission



of India in Colombo, at an event organised at the Hotel Taj Samudra. The event was attended by around 150 representatives of business and industry of Sri Lanka, Indian CEOs and members of the media.

- Briefing the gathering, High Commissioner of India, Shri Y. K. Sinha, stated that the new Government in India had pledged to revive economic growth through, inter-alia, re-visiting the policy framework for investments, both foreign and domestic, to make them more conducive; rationalization and simplification of the tax regime; allowing FDI in sectors wherever needed for job and asset creation; acquisition of niche and specialized technology; and proactive facilitation for making 'doing business' in India easy. A host of initiatives had been taken by the Government in the past three months, including the 'eBiz' project of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion which aims at providing a single platform to avail business and investment related services. As a result, there has been a perceptible improvement in economic performance.
- High Commissioner also briefed those present about the development of industrial corridors in India which would improve industrial and urban infrastructure of the country and promote manufacturing. In this

regard, the following industrial clusters have been fast tracked – (a) Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor; (b) Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor; (c) Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor- as the first phase of the East Coast Industrial Corridor; (d) Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor; (e) Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor and (f) North East-Mynamar Industrial Corridor. High Commissioner detailed the vast opportunities for investment in multiple sectors that were available, and invited Sri Lankan business to take advantage of the same to expand their presence in India.

- A short film on the initiatives of the Government to promote business in India was screened as a curtain-raiser to the main event. This was followed by the live webcast of the launch of the 'Make in India' campaign by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Prime Minister's address on the occasion was heard with great interest by those present, particularly his emphasis on enhancing business confidence, skill development, effective governance and development being an article of faith of the Government. The webcast was followed by an interactive session with the audience.





## Prime Minister's visit to the USA

26 - 30 September 2014

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a 5-day visit to United States of America (USA) from September 26 – 30, 2014. He attended the United Nations General Assembly in New York and, thereafter, visited Washington DC on 29-30 September 2014 for a

bilateral summit with U.S. President Barack Obama.

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received a rapturous welcome from thousands of Indian-Americans at New York's Madison Square Garden in New York on 28 September 2014

## Prime Minister meets Israeli Prime Minister in New York

28 September 2014



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, met the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on 28 September 2014

The two leaders reviewed the robust relationship, and rapidly growing trade. They also discussed how ties could be further expanded. The Israeli side briefed the Prime Minister on their perception of the situation in West Asia.

Defence ties and cooperation in the field of computer software, and cyber security were also discussed.

Issues of water management and agriculture in arid areas came up for discussion, with Israel offering to share its technology in this regard. The Prime Minister also outlined his vision of waste water management and solid waste management in 500 towns across India.

The Israeli Prime Minister extended an invitation to Shri Narendra Modi to visit Israel.



## Prime Minister meets Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton

29 September 2014

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi met the former US President, Mr. Bill Clinton and former US Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, in New York on 29 September 2014. The Union Minister for External

Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj was also present (PHOTO)



## Prime Minister's address and interaction at Council on Foreign Relations in New York City

29 September 2014

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City today. During his interaction at the Council, the Prime Minister made it clear that while India is not against a trade facilitation agreement, the welfare of the large number of poor people in India must be taken into account, and therefore, agreements on trade facilitation and food security must be secured together.

In reply to a question on non-alignment and India's foreign policy, Shri Narendra Modi said that in the 21st century, the world was interdependent, and all countries had a stake in each other's welfare.

The Prime Minister said terrorism is an enemy of humanity and therefore all humanitarian forces across the world must unite to fight terrorism. He said all terrorism in India was "exported" terrorism, and was not homegrown. He said as far as India was concerned, its symbols were Buddha and Gandhi.

The Prime Minister said that the United States should not repeat the mistake of Iraq in Afghanistan. He said

the withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan should be gradual.

The Prime Minister said, India and the United States had a partnership based on shared values of democracy and openness. He said India and China had the capability to resolve the boundary question and there was no need for arbitration in the matter.

The Prime Minister said people had voted for good governance and development in the recent general elections, and there was an atmosphere of confidence. He said the government was working to reduce red-tape and facilitate investment.

In reply to a question, the Prime Minister said electricity was now a necessity and his Government was committed to providing 24x7 electricity to people. He said development and environment were not adversaries, and a balance could be achieved. He also spoke about the Government's initiatives for clean energy.

## Vision Statement for the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership

29 September 2014

"Chalein Saath Saath: Forward Together We Go"

Chalein Saath Saath, forward together we go. As leaders of two great democratic nations with diverse traditions and faiths, we share a vision for a partnership in which the United States and India work together, not just for the benefit of both our nations, but for the benefit of

the world.

We have vastly different histories, but both our founders sought to guarantee freedoms that allow our citizens to determine their own destiny and pursue their personal aspirations. Our strategic partnership rests on our shared mission to provide equal opportunity

for our people through democracy and freedom.

The currents of kinship and commerce, scholarship and science tie our countries together. They allow us to rise above differences by maintaining the long-term perspective. Every day, in myriad ways, our cooperation fortifies a relationship that matches the innumerable ties between our peoples, who have produced works of art and music, invented cutting-edge technology, and responded to crises across the globe.

Our strategic partnership is a joint endeavor for prosperity and peace. Through intense consultations, joint exercises, and shared technology, our security cooperation will make the region and the world safe and secure. Together, we will combat terrorist threats and keep our homelands and citizens safe from attacks, while we respond expeditiously to humanitarian disasters and crises. We will prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and remain committed to reducing the salience of nuclear weapons, while promoting universal, verifiable, and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament.

We will support an open and inclusive rules-based global order, in which India assumes greater multilateral responsibility, including in a reformed United Nations Security Council. At the United Nations and beyond, our close coordination will lead to a more secure and just world.

Climate change threatens both our countries, and we will join together to mitigate its impact and adapt to our changing environment. We will address the consequences of unchecked pollution through cooperation by our governments, science and academic communities. We will partner to ensure that both countries have affordable, clean, reliable,

and diverse sources of energy, including through our efforts to bring American-origin nuclear power technologies to India.

We will ensure that economic growth in both countries brings better livelihoods and welfare for all of our people. Our citizens value education as a means to a better life, and our exchange of skills and knowledge will propel our countries forward. Even the poorest will share in the opportunities in both our countries.

Joint research and collaboration in every aspect—ranging from particles of creation to outer space—will produce boundless innovation and high technology collaboration that changes our lives. Open markets, fair and transparent practices will allow trade in goods and services to flourish.

Our people will be healthier as we jointly counter infectious diseases, eliminate maternal and child deaths, and work to eradicate poverty for all. And they will be safer as we ensure the fullest empowerment of women in a secure environment.

The United States and India commit to expand and deepen our strategic partnership in order to harness the inherent potential of our two democracies and the burgeoning ties between our people, economies, and businesses. Together we seek a reliable and enduring friendship that bolsters security and stability, contributes to the global economy, and advances peace and prosperity for our citizens and throughout the world.

We have a vision that the United States and India will have a transformative relationship as trusted partners in the 21st century. Our partnership will be a model for the rest of the world.

## Prime Minister meets Heads of State of SAARC nations

27 September 2014

The Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh and Prime Minister Sushil Koirala of Nepal.

They all congratulated the Prime Minister on his speech at the UNGA. They also supported the Prime Minister's initiative for an International Yoga Day. The Sri Lankan President has given a letter of support in this regard. They also said they looked forward to receiving Shri Narendra Modi in their respective countries. They congratulated India on the success of the Mars mission, and thanked the Prime Minister for his initiative of a SAARC satellite.

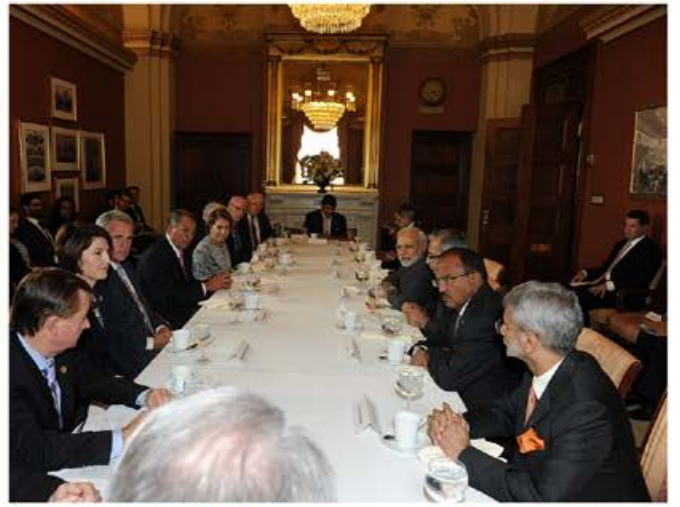
In his discussions with President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister raised the issue of fishermen in Sri Lankan custody.

The Prime Minister emphasized that this is a

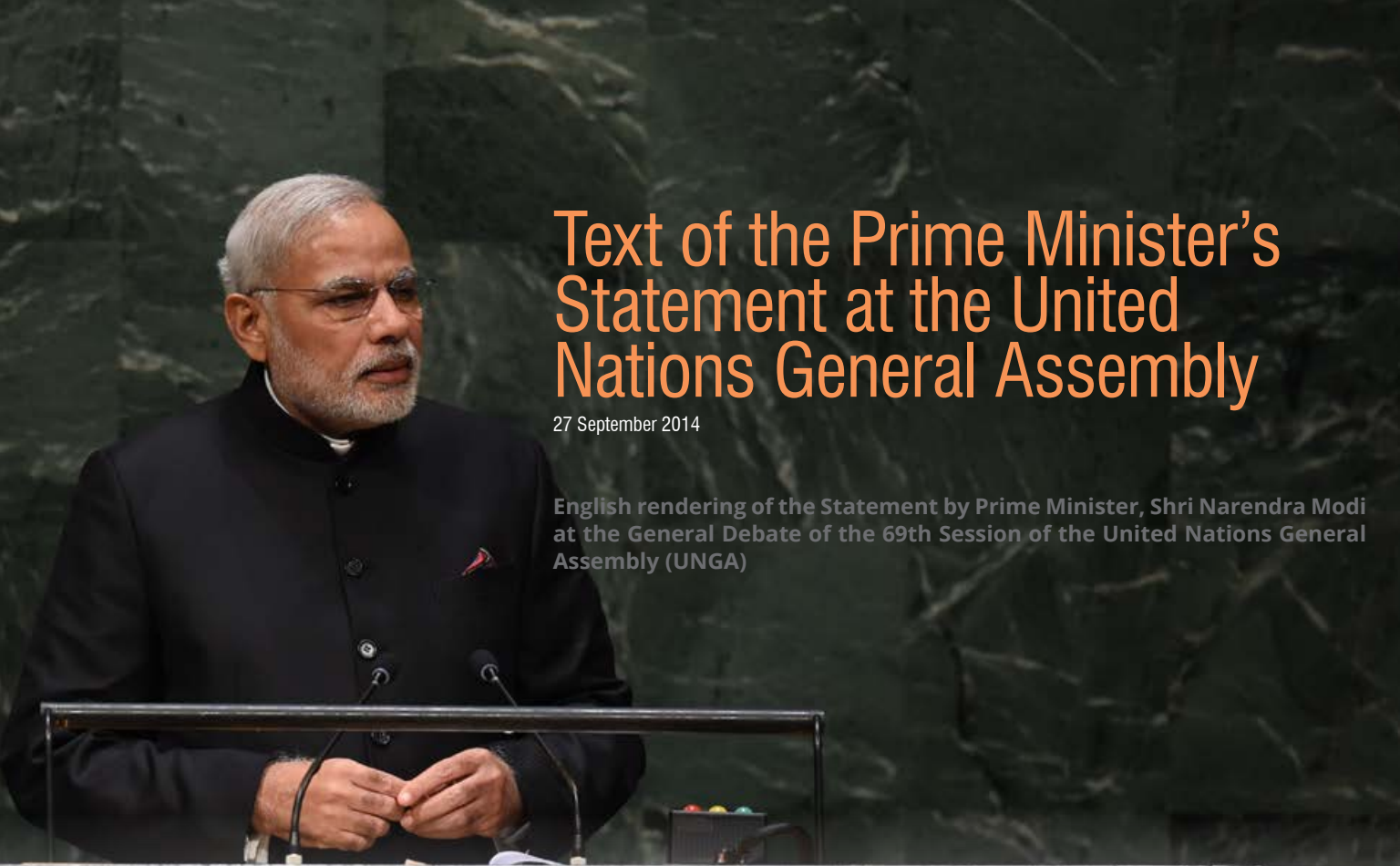
humanitarian issue and should be handled with sensitivity. He also referred to his recent meeting with a delegation of the Tamil National Alliance, and said he had mentioned to them that dialogue is the best way forward.

The Teesta waters issue and the land boundary agreement came up for discussion during the meeting with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Shri Narendra Modi said that the matter of the Land Boundary Agreement was already with a Parliamentary committee. Regarding Teesta, the Prime Minister said an effort was being made to evolve a consensus. The Prime Minister thanked the Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for allowing transit of foodgrains to the northeast, and assured her that India would be willing to assist in any specific infrastructure projects required in this regard.









# Text of the Prime Minister's Statement at the United Nations General Assembly

27 September 2014

English rendering of the Statement by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at the General Debate of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Let me first congratulate you on your election as the President of the 69th session of United Nations General Assembly.

It is a truly a great honour to address you for the first time as the Prime Minister of India. I stand here conscious of the hopes and expectations of the people of India.

I am also mindful of the expectations of the world from 1.25 billion people.

India is a country that constitutes one-sixth of humanity; a nation experiencing economic and social transformation on a scale rarely seen in history.

Every nation's world view is shaped by its civilization and philosophical tradition. India's ancient wisdom sees the world as one family. It is reflected in a tradition of openness and diversity; co-existence and cooperation.

This is why India speaks not just for itself, but also for the cause of justice, dignity, opportunity and prosperity around the world.

It is also because of this timeless current of thought that India has an unwavering belief in multilateralism.

Today, as I stand here, I am equally aware of the hopes that are pinned on this great assembly. I am struck by the sacred belief that brought us together.

An extraordinary vision and a clear recognition of our shared destiny brought us together to build this institution for advancing peace and security, the rights

of every human being and economic development for all. From 51 nations then, today 193 sovereign flags fly at this building. Each nation, born into freedom, has sought a place here with the same belief and hope.

We have achieved much in the past six decades in our mission in ending wars, preventing conflict, maintaining peace, feeding the hungry, striving to save our planet and creating opportunities for children. 69 UN peacekeeping missions since 1948 have made the blue helmet the colour of peace.

Today, there is a surge to democracy across the world; including in South Asia; in Afghanistan, we are at a historic moment of democratic transition and affirmation of unity. Afghans are showing that their desire for a peaceful and democratic future will prevail over violence. Nepal has moved from violence to peace and democracy; Bhutan's young democracy is flourishing. Democracy is trying to find a voice in West Asia and North Africa; Tunisia's success makes us believe that it is possible.

There is a new stirring for stability, progress and progress in Africa. There is unprecedented spread of prosperity in Asia and beyond, rising on the strength of peace and stability. Latin America, a continent of enormous potential, is coming together in shared pursuit of stability and prosperity, which could make it an important anchor of the world.

India desires a peaceful and stable environment for its development. A nation's destiny is linked to its



neighbourhood. That is why my Government has placed the highest priority on advancing friendship and cooperation with her neighbours.

This includes Pakistan. I am prepared to engage in a serious bilateral dialogue with Pakistan in a peaceful atmosphere, without the shadow of terrorism, to promote our friendship and cooperation. However, Pakistan must also take its responsibility seriously to create an appropriate environment for it. Raising issues in this forum will derail the efforts to resolve the issues between our two countries. Instead, today, we should be thinking about the victims of floods in Jammu and Kashmir. In India, we have organized massive flood relief operations and have also offered assistance for Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

India is part of the developing world, but we are prepared to share our modest resources with those countries that need this assistance as much as we do.

This is a time of great flux and change. The world is witnessing tensions and turmoil on a scale rarely seen in recent history. There are no major wars, but tensions and conflicts abound; and, there is absence of real peace and uncertainty about the future. An integrating Asia Pacific region is still concerned about maritime security that is fundamental to its future. Europe faces risk of new division. In West Asia, extremism and fault lines are growing. Our own region continues to face the destabilizing threat of terrorism. Africa faces the twin threat of rising terrorism and a health crisis.

Terrorism is taking new shape and new name. No country, big or small, in the north or the south, east or west, is free from its threat.

Are we really making concerted international efforts to fight these forces, or are we still hobbled by our politics, our divisions, our discrimination between countries, distinction between good and bad terrorists? Even today, states allow terrorist sanctuaries on their territory or use terrorism as instruments of their policy.

We welcome efforts to combat terrorism's resurgence in West Asia, which is affecting countries near and far. The effort should involve the support of all countries in the region.

Today, even as seas, space and cyber space have become new instruments of prosperity, they could also become a new theatre of conflicts.

Today, more than ever, the need for international compact, which is the foundation of the United Nations, is stronger than before.

While we speak of an interdependent world, have we become more united as nations? Today, we still operate in various Gs with different numbers. India, too, is involved in several. But, how much are we able to work together as G1 or G-All.

On the one side, we say that our destinies are inter-

linked, on the other hand we still think in terms of zero sum game. If the other benefits, I stand to lose.

It is easy to be cynical and say nothing will change; but if we do that, we run the risk of shirking our responsibilities and we put our collective future in danger. Let us bring ourselves in tune with the call of our times.

First, let us work for genuine peace.

No one country or group of countries can determine the course of this world. There has to be a genuine international partnership. This is not just a moral position, but a practical reality.

We need a genuine dialogue and engagement between countries. I say this from the conviction of the philosophical tradition that I come from.

Our efforts must begin here – in the United Nations.

We must reform the United Nations, including the Security Council, and make it more democratic and participative. Institutions that reflect the imperatives of 20th century won't be effective in the 21st. It would face the risk of irrelevance; and we will face the risk of continuing turbulence with no one capable of addressing it.

We should put aside our differences and mount a concerted international effort to combat terrorism and extremism. As a symbol of this effort, I urge you to adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

We should ensure that there will be peace, stability and order in the outer space and cyber space.

We should work together to ensure that all countries observe international rules and norms.

We should energise the noble task of UN Peacekeeping; we should involve troop contributing countries in the process of decision making

Let us continue redouble our efforts to pursue universal global disarmament and non-proliferation.

Second, we must pursue a more stable and inclusive global development

Globalisation has created new poles of growth; new industries; and new source of employment.

At the same time, billions live on the edge of poverty and want; countries that are barely able to survive a global economic storm.

There has never been a time when it has seemed more possible than now to change this.

Technology has made things possible; the cost of providing it has reduced. We no longer are totally dependent on bricks and mortars.



If you think of the speed with which Facebook or Twitter has spread around the world, if you think of the speed with which cell phones have spread, then you must also believe that development and empowerment can spread with the same speed.

Each country must of course take its own national measures; each government must fulfil its responsibility to support growth and development.

At the same time, we also require a genuine international partnership. At one level, it means a better coordination of policy so that our efforts becomes mutually supportive, not mutually damaging.

It also means that when we craft agreements on international trade, we accommodate each other's concerns and interests.

When we think of the scale of want in the world – 2.5 billion people without access to basic sanitation; 1.3 billion people without access to electricity; or 1.1 billion people without access to drinking water, we need a more comprehensive and concerted direct international action.

In India, the most important aspects of my development agenda are precisely to focus on these issues and address them in a definite time frame.

The eradication of poverty must remain at the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and command our fullest attention.

Third, we must seek a more habitable and sustainable world

There are debates and documents on these issues. But, we see many things around us that should cause us alarm. And, also many things that we no longer see – forests, birds and animals, clean rivers and lakes and blue skies.

I want to say three things.

One, we should be honest in shouldering our responsibilities in meeting the challenges.

The world had agreed on a beautiful balance of collective action – common but differentiated responsibilities.

That should form the basis of continued action.

This also means that the developed countries must fulfill their commitments for funding and technology transfer.

Second, national action is imperative. Technology has made many things possible. We need imagination and commitment.

India is prepared to share its technology and capabilities, just as we have announced a free satellite for the SAARC countries.

Third, we need to change our lifestyles. Energy not consumed is the cleanest energy.

We can achieve the same level of development, prosperity and well being without necessarily going down the path of reckless consumption. It doesn't mean that economies will suffer; it will mean that our economies will take on a different character.

For us in India, respect for nature is an integral part of spiritualism. We treat nature's bounties as sacred.

Yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition.

Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change.

Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day.

Finally,

We are at a historic moment

Every age is defined by its character; and, each generation is remembered for how it rose together to meet its challenges.

We have that responsibility to rise to our challenges now. Nowhere is this more pronounced than in this great assembly.

Next year we will be seventy. We should ask ourselves whether we should wait until we are 80 or 100.

Let us fulfill our promise to reform the United Nations Security Council. Let us fulfill our pledge on a Post-2015 Development Agenda so that there is new hope and belief in us around the world. Let us make 2015 also a new watershed for a sustainable world. Let it be the beginning of a new journey together.

Thank you.



# President's address to the nation on the eve of India's 68th Independence Day

14 August 2014

On the eve of 67th anniversary of our Independence, I extend warm greetings to you and to all Indians around the world. I convey my special greetings to members of our armed forces, paramilitary forces and internal security forces. I also congratulate all our sports persons, who have participated and won laurels in the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games held at Glasgow.

Friends:

Freedom is a celebration; independence is a challenge. In the 68th year of freedom, we have reaffirmed the power of our individual and collective liberties by electing through a remarkably peaceful electoral process, a stable government with a clear majority for a single party, after three decades. The increase in voter turnout to 66 per cent from the last election's 58 per cent shows the vitality of our democracy. This achievement has given us an opportunity to take up the challenge of governance by reforming the policies, practices and systems of governance so that the enormous aspirations of our people can be fulfilled with vision, commitment, integrity, speed and administrative capability.

Stagnant minds create immobile systems which become roadblocks to growth. India demands creative thinking in governance that enables fast-track development and ensures social harmony. The nation has to be placed above partisan impulses. The people come first.

Friends:

In a democracy, good governance is exercise of power for efficient and effective management of our economic and social resources for the well-being of the people. This power has to be exercised within the framework of the Constitution through the institutions of state. With the passage of time and changes in the eco-system, distortions do appear making some institutions dysfunctional. When one institution does not function in the manner expected of it, phenomenon of overreach sets in. While some new institutions might become necessary, the real solution lies in re-inventing and restoring the existing ones to serve the purpose of effective government.

Good governance is critically dependent on rule of law, participatory decision-making, transparency, responsiveness, accountability, equity and inclusiveness. It calls for wider involvement of the civil society in the political process. It calls for deeper engagement of the youth with the institutions of democracy. It calls for quick dispensation of justice



to the people. It calls for ethical and responsible behaviour from the media.

A country of our size, heterogeneity and complexity calls for culture-specific governance models. It calls for cooperation in the exercise of power and assumption of responsibility, by all stakeholders. It calls for constructive partnership between the state and the citizen. It calls for taking a responsive administration to the door step of every hut and habitation in the land.

Fellow Citizens:

The decisive challenge of our times is to end the curse of poverty. The focus of our policies now has to move from alleviation of poverty to elimination of poverty. The difference is not mere semantics: alleviation is a process; elimination is a time-defined objective. In last six decades, the poverty ratio has declined from over 60 per cent to less than 30 per cent. Even then, nearly one-third of our population still lives below the poverty line. Poverty is not a mere statistic. Poverty has a face, which becomes unbearable when it scars the visage of a child. The poor cannot, and will not, wait for yet another generation to see the very essentials of life - food, shelter, education and employment - being denied to them. The benefits from economic development must percolate down to the poorest of the poor.

In the last decade, our economy grew at an average rate of 7.6 per cent per year. Though the growth rate was subdued at below 5 per cent during the last two

years, I sense renewed vigour and optimism in the air. Signs of revival are visible. Our external sector has strengthened. Fiscal consolidation measures are beginning to show results. Notwithstanding occasional spurts, inflation has started moderating. However, food prices still remain a matter of serious concern. Record food grains production last year helped agriculture sector to grow at a healthy 4.7 per cent. Employment has increased by an average of about 4 per cent per year in the last decade. Manufacturing sector is on the rebound. The stage is now set for our economy to move on a high growth trajectory of 7 to 8 per cent, which is essential to ensure the availability of adequate resources for equitable development.

Fellow Citizens:

Economy is the material part of development. Education is the essential part of it. A sound education system is the bedrock of an enlightened society. It is the bounden duty of our educational institutions to provide quality education and inculcate the core civilizational values of love for motherland; compassion for all; tolerance for pluralism; respect for women; performance of duty; honesty in life; self-restraint in conduct, responsibility in action and discipline in young minds. By the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, we would have achieved a literacy rate of eighty per cent. But would we be able to say that we have provided quality education and skills to our children to be good citizens and successful professionals?

Fellow Citizens:

Our thoughts are influenced by our environment. "Yadrishi Bhavana Yasya; Siddhir Bhavati Tadrishi". It means, "Whatever are one's thoughts, so will be the outcomes". Clean environment breeds clean thoughts. Cleanliness is a mark of self-respect. Ancient travellers like Megasthenes in the 4th Century BC, Fa Hien in the 5th Century AD and Hiuen Tsang in the 7th Century AD, when they came to India, have written about the efficient administrative systems, with planned settlements and good urban infrastructure. What has gone wrong with us now? Why can't we keep our environment free of filth? The Prime Minister's call to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary, by making India a clean country by 2019 is commendable, but it can be achieved only if each Indian converts this into a national mission. Every road, every path, every office, every home, every hut, every river, every stream, every particle in the air around us can be kept clean, if we but cared just a little. We must nurture nature, so that nature continues to nurture us.

My fellow citizens:

Though an ancient civilization, India is a modern nation with modern dreams. Intolerance and violence is a betrayal of the letter and spirit of democracy. Those who believe in the poison drip of inflammatory provocation do not understand India's values or even its present political impulses. Indians know that progress,

economic or social, is difficult without peace. This may be the appropriate moment to recall the great Shivaji's letter to Aurangzeb when the latter imposed jizya. Shivaji told the emperor that Shah Jehan, Jehangir and Akbar could also have levied this tax "but they did not give place to bigotry in their hearts, as they considered all men, high and low, created by God to be examples of the nature of diverse creeds and temperaments". This 17th century epistle of Shivaji carries a message, which is universal. It must become a living testament that guides our behaviour today.

We can least afford to forget this message at a time when an increasingly turbulent international environment has sparked off rising dangers in our region and beyond, some clearly visible, and some crawling out of the debris of unprecedented turmoil. Across parts of Asia and Africa, attempts are being made by radical militias to redraw the maps of nations to create ageography for theocratic ideology. India will feel the heat of blowback, particularly as it represents the values that reject extremism in all its manifestations. India is a beacon of democracy, equilibrium, inter-and-intra faith harmony. We must defend our secular fabric with vigour. Our security and foreign policies must combine the steel of strength with the velvet of diplomacy even as we persuade the like-minded as well as the hesitant to recognise the substantial dangers that breed within indifference.

Fellow Citizens:

Our Constitution is a consequence of our democratic culture, which reflects our ancient values. It pains me to note that this great national asset is becoming increasingly vulnerable to rash excess. Our right to freedom continues to flourish, and may that always be the case, but what about our duty to the people? I sometimes wonder: has our democracy become too noisy? Have we lost the art of contemplation and calm thinking? Is it not the time to restore the grandeur and glory of our institutions that have sustained and nourished our beautiful democracy? Should not Parliament again become the great hall of sombre thought and well-debated legislation? Should not our courts of law become temples of justice? This calls for collective action by all the stakeholders.

A nation is very young at 68. India has the will, energy, intellect, values and unity to claim the 21st century. The vision to win the battle of freedom from poverty is set; the journey will seem formidable only to those without conviction. As an old saying goes, "Siddhir Bhavati Karmaja", which means, "success is born of action".

Now is the time for action!

Jai Hind.



# Prime Minister's address to the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 68th Independence Day

15 August 2014



My dear countrymen,

Today, all Indians in the country and also abroad are celebrating the festival of independence. On this day of sacred festival of independence, the prime servant of India extends greetings to all dear countrymen.

I am present amidst you not as the Prime Minister, but as the Prime Servant. The freedom struggle was fought for so many years, so many generations laid down their lives, innumerable people sacrificed their lives and youth, spent their entire lives behind bars. Today, I pay my respect, greetings and homage to all those who laid their lives for the country's independence.

I also pay my respects to the crores of citizens of this country on the pious occasion of India's independence, and recall all those martyrs who had laid down their lives in India's struggle for freedom. The day of independence is a festival when we take a solemn pledge of working for the welfare of mother India, and also for the welfare of the poor, oppressed, dalits, the exploited & the backward people of our country.

My dear countrymen, a national festival is an occasion to refine and rebuild the national character. This National festival inspires us to resolve ourselves to lead a life where our character gets refined further, to dedicate ourselves to the nation and our every activity is linked to the interest of the nation and only then this festival of freedom can be a festival of inspiration to take India to newer heights.

My dear countrymen, this nation has neither been built by political leaders nor by rulers nor by governments. This nation has been built by our farmers, our workers, our mothers and sisters, our youth. The country has reached here today because of generation to generation rigours undertaken by our sages, our saints, our maestros, our teachers, our scientists and social workers. These great people and these great generations, who had worked for

the country throughout their lives, deserve our deepest respect. This is the beauty of India's Constitution, this is its capability which has made it possible that today a boy from small town, a poor family has got the opportunity to pay homage to the tri-colour of India at the ramparts of Lal Quila (Red Fort). This is the strength of India's democracy. This is an invaluable legacy which we have inherited from our architects of the constitution. I pay my respects to those architects of the constitution of India today.

Brothers and sisters, today if we have reached here after independence, it is because of the contribution of all the Prime Ministers, all the governments and even the governments of all the States. I want to express my feelings of respect and gratitude to all those previous governments and ex-Prime Ministers who have endeavoured to take our present day India to such heights and who have added to the country's glory.

This country has been built on such foundation of ancient cultural heritage, where we were told of only one mantra during Vedic period, which is indicative of our work culture, which we have learnt, we have memorized – "Sangachchhdhvam Samvadadhvam sam wo manansi jaanataam." We walk together, we move together, we think together, we resolve together and together we take this country forward. Having imbibed this basic mantra, 125 crores of countrymen have taken the nation forward. Yesterday only the first Parliamentary Session of the new Government had concluded. Today, I can proudly say that the Session of Parliament reflects our thinking and it is a reflection of our intentions. We are not for moving forward on the basis of majority, we are not interested to move forward by virtue of majority. We want to move ahead on the basis of strong consensus. "Sangachhadhvam" and, therefore, the nation has witnessed the entire Session of Parliament. Having taken all the Parties and Opposition

along while working shoulder to shoulder, we achieved an unprecedented success and the credit for this does not go to the Prime Minister alone, the credit does not go to the people sitting in the Government, the credit for this goes to the Opposition also, the credit goes to all the leaders of Opposition too and also all the Members from Opposition. From the ramparts of Red Fort, quite proudly I salute all the Members of Parliament, I also salute all the Political Parties and by virtue of their strong support, we could take some important decisions intended to take the nation forward and yesterday the Session of Parliament had concluded.

Brothers and sisters, I am an outsider for Delhi, I am not a native of Delhi. I have no idea about the administration and working of this place. I have been quite isolated from the elite class of this place but during the last two months while being an outsider, I had an insider view and I was astonished. It is not a political platform, rather it is a platform of a national policy and, therefore, my views should not be evaluated from a political perspective. I have already said, I salute all the ex-Prime Ministers and earlier governments who have brought the country thus far. But I am going to say something else and it may not be seen from political point of view. When I came to Delhi and noticed an insider view, I felt what it was and I was surprised to see it. It seemed as if dozens of separate governments are running at the same time in one main government. It appeared that everyone has its own fiefdom. I could observe disunity and conflict among them. One department is taking on the other department and taking on to the extent that two departments of the same government are fighting against each other by approaching Supreme Court. This disunity, this conflict among people of the same country! How come we can take the country forward? And that is why I have started making efforts for razing those walls; I have started making efforts at making the Government, not an assembled entity, but an organic unity, an organic entity, a harmonious whole- with one aim, one mind, one direction, one energy. Let's resolve to steer the country to one destination. We have it in us to move in that direction. A few days back...Nowadays newspapers are full of news that Modi's Government has come, officers are reaching office on time, offices open in time, and people get there in time. I observed that India's National newspapers, TV media were carrying these news items prominently. As the Head of the Government I could have derived pleasure in the fact that everything started going on time, cleanliness got the attention, but I was not taking pleasure, I was feeling pained. That thing, I want to tell today in public. And why, because if government

officers arrive office in time, does that make a news? And if that makes news, it shows how low we have fallen. It becomes a proof of that, and that's how, brothers and sisters, the governments have run? Today in the face of global competition, when we have to realize the

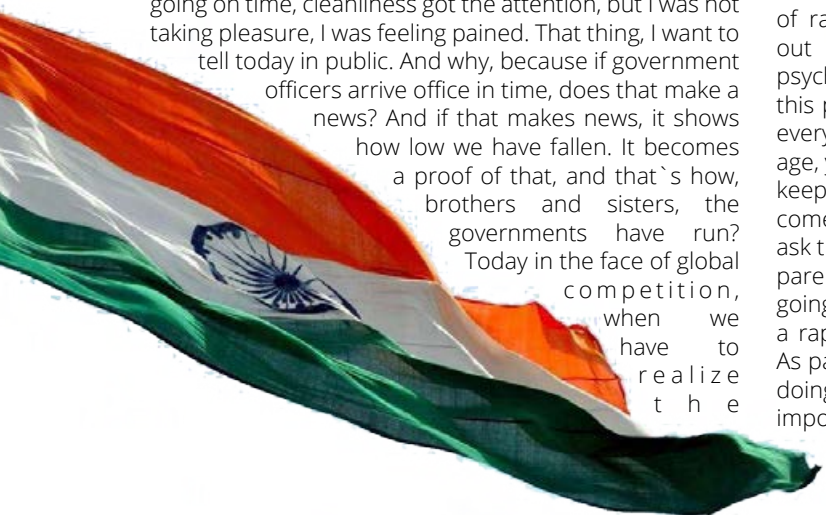
dreams of millions of Indians, the country cannot run on the lines of "it happens", "it goes". In order to fulfil the aspirations of masses, we have to sharpen the tool called the Government machinery, we have to make it keen, more dynamic, and it is in this direction that we are

working. My countrymen, it's not long since I have come from outside Delhi, but I give you an assurance that the people in the Government are very capable - from the peon to the Cabinet Secretary, everybody is capable, everybody has a power, they have experience. I want to awaken that power, I want to unite that power and want to accelerate the pace of the welfare of nation through that power and I shall definitely do it. I want to assure the countrymen that we will achieve that, we will definitely do that. I could not say this on 16th May, but today after my experience of two-two and half months, keeping the tricolor as witness, I am saying on 15th of August that it is possible, it will be achieved.

Brothers and sisters, time has come to give a serious thought to the fact that whether we have a duty to create India of the dreams of those great people who gave us freedom, whether we have a national character?

Brothers and sisters, can someone please tell me as to whether he or she has ever introspected in the evening after a full day's work as to whether his or her acts have helped the poor of the country or not, whether his or her actions have resulted in safeguarding the interest of the country or not, whether the actions have been directed in country's welfare or not? Whether it should not be the motto of one and a quarter billion countrymen that every step in life should be in the country's interests? Unfortunately, we have an environment today wherein if you approach anyone with some work, he begins by saying "what does it mean for me?" He begins by saying "what does it involve for me?" and when he come to know that it does not entail any benefit for him, immediately he says "why should I bother?" we have to rise above the feelings of "what does it mean for me" and "why should I bother". Everything is not for self interest only. There are certain things which are meant for the country and we have to refine this national character. We have to rise above the feelings of "why should I bother" and "what does it mean for me" and instead we have to think that "I am for nation's interest and in this field, I am going to lead". We have to inculcate this sentiment.

Brothers and sisters, when we hear about the incidents of rape, we hang our heads in shame. People come out with different arguments, someone indulges in psycho analysis, but brothers and sisters, today from this platform, I want to ask those parents, I want to ask every parent that you have a daughter of 10 or 12 years age, you are always on the alert, every now and then you keep on asking where are you going, when would you come back, inform immediately after you reach. Parents ask their daughters hundreds of questions, but have any parents ever dared to ask their son as to where he is going, why he is going out, who his friends are. After all, a rapist is also somebody's son. He also has parents. As parents, have we ever asked our son as to what he is doing and where he is going. If every parent decides to impose as many restrictions on the sons as have been imposed on our daughters, try to do this with your







sons, try to ask such questions of them.

My dear brothers and sisters, the law will take its own course, strict action will be taken, but as a member of the society, as parents, we also have some responsibilities. If somebody tells me that those who have taken guns on their shoulders and kill innocent people are maoists, are terrorists, but they are also somebody's children. I would like to ask of such parents if they had ever asked their children as to why they were taking a wrong path. Every parent must take this responsibility, he must know that his misguided son is bent on killing innocent people. He is not able to serve himself nor his family nor the country. I want to say to those youngsters who have chosen the path of violence that whatever they are and wherever they are, it is all because of mother India only that they have got it. Whoever you are it is all because of your parents. I want to ask you to think how green, how beautiful and how beneficial this earth can become if you shoulder the plough instead of the gun which spills blood on this land. How long shall we have bloodshed on this land, how long shall we take the lives of the innocent people and what have we got after all this? The path of violence has not yielded anything to us.

Brothers and sisters, I had gone to Nepal recently. There I said something publicly to draw the attention of the whole world. There was a time when the Emperor Ashoka who had chosen the path of wars, got converted to the path of Buddha at the sight of violence. There was a time in Nepal when their youngsters had opted for the path of violence but today I witness that the same youngsters are waiting for their constitution. The same people associated with them are framing the constitution. And I further said that if Nepal could present the best example of moving from the weapons to the books then it could provide inspiration to the youngsters in the world to abandon the path of violence.

Brothers and sisters, If Nepal, land of Budha, can give message to the world then why can't India too do the same? So it's the call of the hour that we renounce the path of violence and take the path of brotherhood.

Brothers and sisters, for one reason or the other, we have had communal tensions for ages. This led to the division of the country. Even after Independence, we have had to face the poison of casteism and communalism. How long these evils will continue? Whom does it benefit? We have had enough of fights, many have been killed. Friends, look behind and you will find that nobody has benefited from it. Except casting a slur on Mother India, we have done nothing. Therefore, I appeal to all those people

that whether it is the poison of casteism, communalism, regionalism, discrimination on social and economic basis, all these are obstacles in our way forward. Let's resolve for once in our hearts, let's put a moratorium on all such activities for ten years, we shall march ahead to a society which will be free from all such tensions. And you will see that how much strength we get from peace, unity, goodwill and brotherhood. Let's experiment it for once.

My dear countrymen, believe in my words, I do assure you. Shun all the sins committed so far, give up that way, follow the way of goodwill and brotherhood, and let's resolve to take the country forward. I believe we can do that.

With advancement of science, brothers and sisters, we have a rising feeling of modernity in our mind, but what do we do? Have we ever thought what the sex ratio in the country is like? 940 girls are born against per thousand boys. Who is causing this imbalance in the society? Certainly not God. I request the doctors not to kill the girl growing in the womb of a mother just to line their own pockets. I advise mothers and sisters not to sacrifice daughters in the hope of son. Sometimes mother-father feel tempted to have son in the hope of supporting them in old age. I am a person who has worked in public life. I have come across families with five sons, each having bungalows, access to fleet of cars, but parents are forced to live in old-age homes, Vriddhashrams. I have seen such families. I have also seen families with only daughter as progeny, that daughter sacrifices her dreams, doesn't get married, and spends entire life in taking care of old parents. This disparity points to female foeticide and the polluted and tainted mind the 21st century has. We will have to liberate from it, and that is message to us of this Freedom festival.

Recently Commonwealth Games were organized. Indian sportspersons brought glory to the country. Nearly 64 of our sportspersons won. Our sportspersons brought 64 medals. But of them 29 are girls. Let's feel proud and clap for them. Girls also contribute to India's fame and glory. Let's recognise it. Let's take them along, shoulder to shoulder. This way we can get over the evils that have crept in social life. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have to proceed in that direction as a social and national character. Brothers and Sisters, Development is the only way forward for the country. Good governance is the only way. There are only these two tracks to take the country forward – good governance and development, we can move forward only by taking them with us. We wish to move forward with the intent of taking them with us. When I talk of good governance, you tell me, when I



ask a person in private job, he tells that he does the job; when you ask the same from a person in government job, he says that I do the service. Both earn, but for one it is job while for the other it is service. I ask a question from all brothers and sisters in government service, whether the word "Service" has not lost its strength, its identity? Persons in government service are not doing "job", they are doing "service". We have to revive this feeling, we have to take this feeling forward as a national character, we have to move forward in this direction.

Brothers and Sisters, whether the citizens of the country should take steps for the welfare of the nation or not? You imagine, if this 125 crores of countrymen move one step forward, then the country moves 125 crore steps forward. The meaning of democracy is not just limited to electing a government, but its meaning is that 125 crore of citizens work together joining shoulder with the government to fulfill hopes and aspirations of the country, this is the meaning of democracy. We have to create partnership with the people. We have to proceed under Public-Private Partnership. We have to proceed along with the participation of the people. But, please tell me why our farmers commit suicide? A farmer takes loan from the moneylender, but fails to repay his loans. He takes loan for the wedding of his daughter, but fails to repay. He will have to suffer hardships during his whole life. He chooses to commit suicide. Who will save the poor families of such farmers?

Brothers and sisters, I have come here with a pledge to launch a scheme on this festival of Freedom. It will be called 'Pradhanmantri Jan-Dhan Yojana'. I wish to connect the poorest citizens of the country with the facility of bank accounts through this yojana. There are millions of families who have mobile phones but no bank accounts. We have to change this scenario. Economic resources of the country should be utilized for the well-being of the poor. The change will commence from this point. This yojana will open the window. Therefore, an account holder under 'Pradhanmantri Jan-Dhan Yojana' will be given a debit card. An insurance of One Lakh Rupees will be guaranteed with that debit card for each poor family, so that such families are covered with the insurance of One Lakh Rupees in case of any crisis in their lives.

My brothers and sisters, it is a country of young people. The 65 percent population of the country happens to be under the age of 35 years. Our country has the largest number of youths in the world. Have we ever thought of deriving an advantage out of it? Today, the

world needs a skilled workforce. Today, India also needs a skilled workforce. At times, we look for a good driver but he is not available, we look for a plumber, but he is not available. If we need a good cook, he is not available. We have young people, they are unemployed but the kind of young people we seek for are not available. If we have to promote the development of our country then our mission has to be 'skill development' and 'skilled India'. Millions and Millions of Indian youth should go for acquisition of skills and there should be a network across the country for this and not the archaic systems. They should acquire the skills which could contribute towards making India a modern country. Whenever they go to any country in the world, their skills must be appreciated and we want to go for a two pronged development. I also want to create a pool of young people who are able to create jobs and the ones who are not capable of creating jobs and do not have the opportunities, they must be in a position to face their counterparts in any corner of the world while keeping their heads high by virtue of their hard work and their dexterity of hands and win the hearts of people around the world through their skills. We want to go for the capacity building of such young people. My brothers and sisters, having taken a resolve to enhance the skill development at a highly rapid pace, I want to accomplish this.

Brothers and sisters, the world has undergone a change. My dear countrymen, the world has changed. Now India can not decide its future by remaining isolated and sitting alone in a corner. The economics of the world have changed and, therefore, we will have to act accordingly. Government have taken many decisions recently, made some announcements in the budget and I call upon the world and call upon the Indians spread world over that if we have to provide more and more employment to the youth, we will have to promote manufacturing sector. If we have to develop a balance between imports and exports, we will have to strengthen manufacturing sector. If we have to put in use the education, the capability of the youth, we will have to go for manufacturing sector and for this Hindustan also will have to lend its full strength, but we also invite world powers. Therefore I want to appeal all the people world over, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, "Come, make in India", "Come, manufacture in India". Sell in any country of the world but manufacture here. We have got skill, talent, discipline, and determination to do something. We want to give the world an favourable opportunity that come here, "Come, Make in India" and we will say to the world, from electrical to electronics, "Come, Make in India", from automobiles to agro value addition "Come, Make in India", paper or plastic, "Come, Make in India", satellite or submarine "Come, Make in India". Our country is powerful. Come, I am giving you an invitation.

Brothers and sisters, I want to call upon the youth of the country, particularly the small people engaged in the industrial sector. I want to call upon the youth working in the field of technical education in the country. As I say to the world "Come, Make in India", I say to the youth of the country – it should be our dream that this message reaches every corner of the world, "Made in India". This should be our dream. Whether, to serve the country, is it necessary for the youth of the country to be hanged



like Bhagat Singh? Brothers and sisters, Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan". A soldier sacrifices himself at the border and protects Mother India. Similarly, a farmer serves Mother India by filling the godowns with grains. This is also nation's service. Filling the granary is the biggest nation's service that a farmer provides. That is why Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".

Brothers and Sisters, I would like to pose a question to my youngsters as to why despite them, we are forced to import even the smallest of things? My country's youth can resolve it, they should conduct research, try to find out as to what type of items are imported by India and then each one should resolve that, through may be micro or small industries only, he would manufacture atleast one such item so that we need not import the same in future. We should even advance to a situation wherein we are able to export such items. If each one of our millions of youngsters resolves to manufacture atleast one such item, India can become a net exporter of goods. I, therefore, urge upon the youth, in particular our small entrepreneurs that they would never compromise, atleast on two counts. First, zero defect and, second again zero effect. We should manufacture goods in such a way that they carry zero defect, that our exported goods are never returned to us. We should manufacture goods with zero effect that they should not have a negative impact on the environment. If we march ahead with the dream of zero defect in the manufacturing sector then, my brothers and sisters, I am confident that we would be able to achieve our goals.

Brothers and sisters, the youth of India has completely transformed the identity of India in the world. Earlier, in what manner did the world know our country? Till only 25-30 years back, if not more, there were many people in the world who thought that India was a country of snake charmers, it was a country which practiced in black magic. The real identity of India had not reached the world, but my dear brothers and sisters, our youngsters, 20-22-23 years old youngsters have mesmerized the whole world with their skills in computers. Our young I.T. professionals have given a new path of making a new identity of India. If our country has this strength, can we think something about the country? Our dream is, therefore, of "Digital India". When I talk of "Digital India", I don't speak of the elite, it is for the poor people. You can imagine what a quality education the children in villages will get, if all the villages of India are connected with Broadband Connectivity and if we are able to give long distance education to the schools in every remote corner of the villages. If we create a network of telemedicine in the places where there is a shortage of doctors, we can have a clear guideline of the way in which health facilities have to be provided to the poor people living in those areas. The citizens of India have mobile phones in their hands, they have mobile connectivity, but can we walk in the direction of mobile governance? We have to move in a direction where every poor person is able to operate his bank account from his mobile, is able to demand various things from the government, can submit applications, can conduct all his business, while on the move, through mobile governance and if this has to be done, we have to move towards `digital India` and if we have to move

towards `digital India` then we have a dream. Today we are importing electronic goods on a large scale. Friends, you will be surprised that we are bringing in these televisions, mobile phones, i-pads and all these electronic goods. It is a necessity to import petroleum products, oil, diesel and petrol. Second to this is the import of our electronic goods. If we move ahead with the dream of `digital India` to manufacture electronic goods and become self reliant at least there, how big can be the benefit for the treasury! Therefore, e-governance is what we need to take this idea of `digital India` forward. E-governance is easy governance, effective governance and also economic governance. E-governance paves the way for good governance. There was a time when we used to say that the railways provided connectivity to the country. That was it. I say that today it is IT that has the potential to connect each and every citizen of the country and that is why we want to realise the mantra of unity with the help of `digital India`.

Brothers and sisters, if we move ahead with all this then



I believe that a `digital India` will have the potential to stand with the world on equal footing. Our youth have that capability, it is an opportunity for them.

Brothers and sisters, we want to promote tourism. Tourism provides employment to the poorest of the poor. Gram seller earns something, auto-rickshaw driver earns something, pakoda seller earns something and tea seller also earns something. When there is talk of tea seller, I feel a sense of belongingness. Tourism provide employment to the poorest of the poor. But there is a big obstacle in promoting tourism and in our national character and that is – the filthiness all around us. Whether after independence, after so many years of independence, when we stand at the threshold of one and half decade of 21st century, we still want to live in filthiness? The first work I started here after formation of Government is of cleanliness. People wondered whether it is a work of a Prime Minister? People may feel that it is a trivial work for a Prime Minister but for me this a big work. Cleanliness is very big work. Whether our country can not be clean? If one hundred and twenty five crore countrymen decide that they will never spread filthiness, which power in the world has ability to spread filthiness in our cities and villages? Can't we resolve this much?

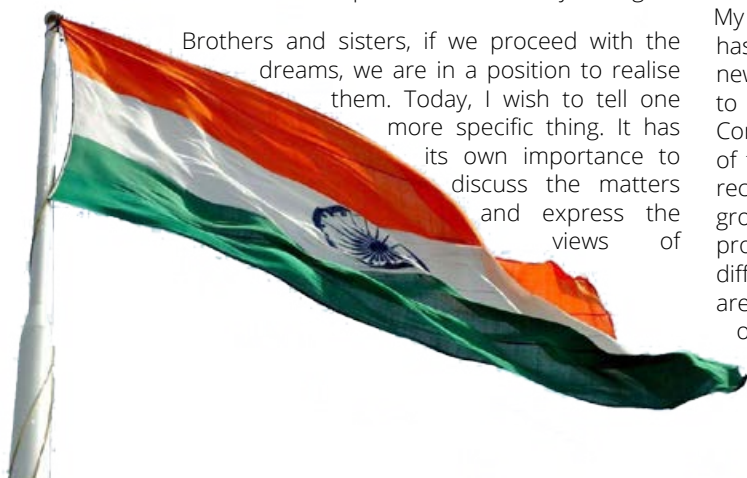
Brothers and sisters it will be 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019. How do we celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi? Mahatma Gandhi, who gave us freedom, who brought so much honour to such a big country in the world, what do we give to Mahatma Gandhi? Brothers and Sisters, Mahatma Gandhi had cleanliness and sanitation closest to his heart. Whether we resolve not to leave a speck of dirt in our village, city, street, area, school, temple, hospital, and what have you, by 2019 when we celebrate 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi? This happens not just with the Government, but with public participation. That's why we have to do it together.

Brother and Sisters, we are living in 21st century. Has it ever pained us that our mothers and sisters have to defecate in open? Whether dignity of women is not our collective responsibility? The poor womenfolk of the village wait for the night; until darkness descends, they can't go out to defecate. What bodily torture they must be feeling, how many diseases that act might engender. Can't we just make arrangements for toilets for the dignity of our mothers and sisters? Brothers and Sisters, somebody might feel that a big festival like 15th August is an occasion to talk big. Brothers and Sisters, talking big has its importance, making announcements too has importance, but sometimes announcements raise hopes and when the hopes are not fulfilled, the society sinks into a state of despondency. That's why are in favour of telling those things, which we can fulfil just within our sight. Brothers and sisters, you must be getting shocked to hear the Prime Minister speaking of cleanliness and the need to build toilets from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Brothers and sisters, I do not know how my speech is going to be criticised and how will people take it. But this is my heartfelt conviction. I come from a poor family, I have seen poverty. The poor need respect and it begins with cleanliness. I, therefore, have to launch a 'clean India' campaign from 2nd October this year and carry it forward in 4 years. I want to make a beginning today itself and that is – all schools in the country should have toilets with separate toilets for girls. Only then our daughters will not be compelled to leave schools midway. Our parliamentarians utilizing MPLAD fund are there. I appeal to them to spend it for constructing toilets in schools for a year. The government should utilise its budget on providing toilets. I call upon the corporate sector also to give priority to the provision of toilets in schools with your expenditure under Corporate Social Responsibility. This target should be finished within one year with the help of state governments and on the next 15th August, we should be in a firm position to announce that there is no school in India without separate toilets for boys and girls.

Brothers and sisters, if we proceed with the dreams, we are in a position to realise them. Today, I wish to tell one more specific thing. It has its own importance to discuss the matters and express the views of

nation's interest. However, our Members of Parliament do not get opportunity though they are willing to do something. They can express themselves, write to the government, agitate, give memoranda. Still they do not get opportunity to do something on their own. Today I have come to you with a new idea. We are running so many schemes in the name of the Prime Minister in our country, there are numerous schemes in the name of various leaders. However, today I am going to announce a scheme on behalf of the Member of Parliament - 'Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana'. We shall fix some parameters. I urge upon the Members of Parliament to select any one of the villages having population of three to five thousand in your constituency. The parameters will be according to the time, space and situation of that locality. It will include the conditions of health, cleanliness, atmosphere, greenery, cordiality etc. On the basis of those parameters, each of our MPs should make one village of his or her constituency a Model Village by 2016. Can't we do at least this? Shouldn't we do this? If we have to build a nation, we should start from the village. Make a Model Village. The reason of fixing this target for 2016 is that it is a new scheme. It takes time to formulate a scheme and then to implement it. After 2016, select two more villages for this purpose, before we go for the General Elections in 2019. And after 2019, each Member of Parliament, during his/her tenure of 5 years must establish at-least five model villages in his/her area. I also call upon the Members of Parliament from urban areas to adopt one village of their choice. I also urge upon the Members of Parliament from Rajya Sabha to adopt one of the villages. If we provide one model village in each district of India then the surrounding villages shall be automatically inspired to follow that model. Let us establish a model village, let us establish a village well equipped with all systems and facilities. The birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan Ji happens to be on 11th October. On 11th October, the occasion of birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan Ji, I will present a complete blueprint of "Sānsad Adharśh Grām Yojana" (Members of Parliament Model Village Scheme) before all Members of Parliament and State Governments, and I urge upon State Governments also that as per the feasibility in their respective states, all the Members of Legislative Assembly resolve to establish a model village. You can imagine all the Members of Legislative Assembly and all the Members of Parliament in the country establishing a model village. All of a sudden, there would be a model village in each block of India which could inspire us to transform the amenities in rural areas and could give us a new direction and, therefore, we want to move ahead under this "Sānsad Adarśh Grām Yojana".

My dear brothers and sisters, ever since our government has taken charge, there has been a discussion in the newspapers, on T.V. channels as to what would happen to Planning Commission. I believe that when Planning Commission was constituted, it was done on the basis of the circumstances and the needs of those times. In recent years, Planning Commission has contributed to the growth of the country in its own way. I respect that, I am proud of that, but the prevalent situation in the country is different, global scenario has also changed, governments are no longer the centre of economic activities, the scope of such activities has broadened. State governments





have been at the center of development and I consider this a good indication. If we have to take India forward, it can happen only by taking the states forward. India's federal structure is more important today than in the last 60 years. To strengthen our federal structure, to make our federal structure vibrant, to take our federal structure as a heritage of development, a team of Chief Minister and Prime Minister should be there, a joint team of the Centre and the states should move forward, then to do this job, we will have to think about giving the Planning Commission a look. So, I am saying from the rampart of the Red Fort that it is a very old system and it will have to be rejuvenated, it will have to be changed a lot. Sometimes it costs more to repair the old house, but, it gives us no satisfaction. Thereafter, we have a feeling that it would be better to construct a new house altogether and therefore within a short period, we will replace the planning commission with a new institution having a new design and structure, a new body, a new soul, a new thinking, a new direction, a new faith towards forging a new direction to lead the country based on creative thinking, public-private partnership, optimum utilization of resources, utilization of youth power of the nation, to promote the aspirations of state governments seeking development, to empower the state governments and to empower the federal structure. Very shortly, we are about to move in a direction when this institute would be functioning in place of Planning Commission.

Brothers and sisters, today, on 15th August, we also have the birth anniversary of Maharishi Aurobindo. Maharishi Aurobindo, being a rebel, moved on to achieve the status of a Yoga Guru. With regard to the destiny of India, he remarked, "I have a faith that the divine power and spiritual heritage of India will play an important role towards the welfare of the world." Such sentiments were echoed by Maharishi Arvind. I strongly believe in the words of legends. I have great faith in the statements made by ascetics, sages & saints and that's why today at the ramparts of Lal Quila I am reminded of the words of Swami Viveknanda. He had said – "I can see before my eyes Mother India awakening once again. My Mother India would be seated as the World Guru. Every Indian would render service towards welfare of humanity. This legacy of India would be useful for the welfare of the world". These words were spoken by Swami Viveknanda ji in his own style. Friends, the words of Viveknanda ji can never be untrue. The words of Viveknanda ji, his dream of seeing India ensconced as World Guru, his vision, it is incumbent upon us to realize that dream. This capable country, blessed with natural bounty, this country of youth can do much for the world in the coming days.

Brothers and sisters, our foreign policy is a much talked about issue. I clearly believe that India's foreign policy can be multi-dimensional. But there is an important issue to which I want to draw your attention that the way we fought for freedom, we fought together, we were not separate at that time. We were together. Which was the government with us? What were the weapons available to us? There was a Gandhi, a Sardar and lakhs of freedom fighters and such a huge empire. Didn't we win in the struggle of freedom against that empire? Did we not defeat the foreign powers? Did we not force them to leave India? We were the ones, they were our

ancestors only who showed this might. If the people of India could remove such a big empire without the power of the government, without weapons and even without resources, then friends, it is the need of the hour to eradicate poverty, can we not overcome poverty? Can we not defeat poverty? My 125 crore dear countrymen, let us resolve to eradicate poverty, to win against it. Let us move with the dream of poverty eradication from India. Our neighbouring countries are also faced with the same problem. Why not get together with all the SAARC nations to plan out the fight against poverty? Let's fight together and defeat poverty. Let us see at-least for once as to how wonderful is the feeling of being alive instead of killing and getting killed. This is the land where incidents from Siddharth's life happened. One bird was shot with an arrow by one brother and the other took out that arrow to save it. They went to mother- whose bird, whose swan? Whether killer's or saviour's, they asked of mother. The mother replied, saviour's. The saviour has more power than the killer and that makes him Buddha in future. And that's why I seek cooperation from neighbouring countries for fighting against poverty in concert and cooperate with them, so that together with SAARC countries we can create our importance and emerge as a power in the world. It is imperative that we work together with a dream to win a fight against poverty, shoulder to shoulder. I went to Bhutan, Nepal, all the dignitaries from SAARC countries took part in oath-taking ceremony; this marked a good beginning. This will definitely yield good results, it is my belief and this thinking of India, in the country and the world, that we want to do well to the countrymen and be useful for the welfare of the world, India wants such a hand to be extended. We are trying to move forward with these dreams to achieve them.

Brothers and Sisters, today on 15th August we will resolve to do something for the country. Let's be useful for the country, we will move ahead with a resolve to take the country forward, and I assure you, Brothers and Sisters, as well as my colleagues in the Government, that if you work for 12 hours, I will do so for 13 hours. If you work for 14 hours, I will do for 15 hours. Why? Because I'm amidst you not as a Prime Minister, but as the first servant. I have formed the Government not as a ruler, but as a servant. Brothers and sisters, I assure that this country has a destiny. It is destined to work for the welfare of the world, it was said by Vivekanand ji. India is born, this Hindustan is born in order to achieve this destiny. One hundred and twenty five crore countrymen have to move forward wholeheartedly for the welfare of the nation.

Once again I feel proud of the devotion, the sacrifices of the security forces of the country, para-military forces of the country, all the security forces of the country to protect Mother India. I say to the countrymen, "राष्ट्रायाम्, जाग्रयाम् वयम्", "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty". The army is vigilant, we should also be vigilant and the country scales new heights, we have to move forward with this resolution. Speak loudly with me with full force -

Bharat mata ki jai, bharat mata ki jai, bharat mata ki jai.

Jai Hind, Jai Hind, Jai Hind.

Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram!

# 68th Independence Day of India Celebrations in Sri Lanka

15 August 2014



The High Commission of India and the Indian expatriate community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 68th Independence Day of India on Friday, 15 August 2014 at India House in Colombo. High Commissioner Mr. Y.K. Sinha unfurled the National Flag and inspected a Guard of Honour presented by the BSF contingent. He read out excerpts from the Address to the Nation on the eve of the Independence Day by the Hon'ble President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

The High Commissioner noted that the President of India had highlighted that though an ancient civilization, India is a modern nation with modern dreams. India is a beacon of democracy, equilibrium and inter-and-intra faith harmony. India's security and foreign policies must combine the steel of strength with the velvet of diplomacy. India has the will, energy, intellect, values and unity to claim the 21st century.

Speaking about the state of India-Sri Lanka relations, High Commissioner said that Sri Lanka has always occupied a special place in Indian hearts. Centuries-old cultural, civilizational and linguistic links had now blossomed to encompass all areas of contemporary relevance. High-level level bilateral interaction with the new Indian Government had already commenced with the visits to India by the President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, in May to attend the swearing-in of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Council

of Ministers, and by the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Prof. G. L. Peiris, in July for bilateral talks. India was also committed to closer economic cooperation and consolidation of the SAARC region. The India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), which aims to exploit the synergies and complementarities that exist between the two countries and has led to a sharp increase in bilateral trade and investment flows, remains the cornerstone of bilateral economic and commercial ties. We were now looking to tap the vast potential in the services sector, thereby launching a special economic partnership.

High Commissioner noted that people-to-people and cultural links constituted one of the cardinal pillars of the India-Sri Lanka relationship, and felt that these ties would be further strengthened through India's focus on the 5 Ts - Tradition, Talent, Tourism, Trade and Technology, enunciated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In recent years, India has been attracting a growing number of Sri Lankan students for tertiary education, as it offers a much more affordable alternative to other countries without compromising on quality.

High Commissioner also said that India is privileged to be a partner in Sri Lanka's development efforts. India's developmental cooperation projects are entirely based on the priorities set by the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. India's development cooperation projects amounted to around US\$ 1.3 billion overall. The Housing project is the flagship Project in this regard, with a target to build 50,000 houses by the end of 2015. Around 14,000 houses have been completed in all respects till date, while about 20,000 houses are under various stages of completion.

High Commissioner's address was followed by a brief cultural programme organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, which included the singing of patriotic songs





and dance performances by students of the Indian Cultural Centre.

Subsequently, the High Commissioner of India and other officials of the High Commission paid their respects to the memory of fallen soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in a solemn ceremony at the IPKF memorial in Colombo.

As part of the series of events being organized on

the occasion of the 68th Independence Day of India, the Indian CEO Forum, in collaboration with the High Commission of India, is organizing an Independence Day Concert by the famous Indian singer, Shaan (Shantanu Mukherjee) on 17 August 2014.

Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota and the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy also celebrated the 68th Independence Day by organizing flag hoisting ceremonies



# High Commissioner's Message on the occasion of 68th Independence Day of India

15 August 2014



1. On the occasion of the 68th Independence Day of India, I extend my greetings and best wishes to my fellow citizens of India and to the friendly people and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
2. This Independence Day is particularly poignant, as it follows the remarkable general elections of May 2014 in which the 814 million-strong Indian electorate gave a resounding and decisive mandate to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). For the first time in nearly 30 years, a single political party now enjoys a majority in the Lok Sabha (lower house of the Indian Parliament). A record 66.4% turnout has reaffirmed the vibrancy, strength and resilience of our democracy. This regular exercise of franchise by the citizens of India, transcending the boundaries of caste, creed, region and religion to determine their own future as a nation, is unparalleled across the globe in its scope and complexity, and is a fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by the founding fathers of the nation. It is truly an occasion to celebrate!
3. Shri Narendra Modi, who galvanized the nation with his promise of a better tomorrow, has been sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India. His government has enunciated the development vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (together with everyone, development for everyone), and is working towards the promise of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" through greater citizen participation in governance. The election of a new government has rekindled the hopes and aspirations of people across our vast land.
4. The new Government has already demonstrated its desire to strengthen relations with foreign countries, particularly with our South Asian neighbours. In a gesture unique in the history of independent India, leaders of all South Asian countries were invited to the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers on May 26, 2014. We are grateful to His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa for graciously accepting the invitation at short notice. India remains committed to work towards building a peaceful, stable and economically inter-linked South Asian region, which is essential for the collective development and prosperity of the more than one and a half billion people who call this region their home. Greater regional integration and inter-connection are imperative in this regard. India will continue to work for the revitalization of SAARC as an effective instrument for regional cooperation and as a united voice on global issues.
5. Sri Lanka has always occupied a special place in India's worldview. Centuries-old bilateral cultural, civilizational, and linguistic links have now blossomed to encompass all areas of contemporary relevance. The overwhelming number of congratulatory messages that the new Indian Government received from Sri Lanka reflects not only the close linkages between our two countries, but also a shared vision that the security and prosperity of our two countries are inter-linked. It is of great satisfaction that high-level bilateral interaction with the new Indian Government has already commenced with the successful visit in July to India by the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Prof. G. L. Peiris. India remains committed to partnering Sri Lanka in all its endeavours, including in meeting its aspirations of peace, harmony, growth and development. It is our hope that the opportunity provided by the end to armed conflict in Sri Lanka, and subsequent positive developments such as the holding of elections to the Northern Provincial Council, can be utilized to ensure reconciliation and lasting peace and prosperity.
6. The election of a new government in India with a clear mandate has also provided an excellent opportunity for further deepening our bilateral trade and investment linkages. The new government is committed to closer economic cooperation and consolidation of the SAARC region. The India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), which aims to exploit the synergies and complementarities that exist between the two countries, remains the cornerstone of our economic and commercial ties. The benefits that have accrued from this 14 year-old Agreement are well documented. Bilateral trade reached nearly





US\$ 5 billion in 2011, though it has subsequently fallen to around US\$ 4 billion in 2013. I would like to highlight that among all the major trade partners of Sri Lanka, India has the most balanced trade with Sri Lanka. India is the largest source of imports for Sri Lanka, but is also the third largest export destination, after USA and UK. India has also attracted investment from Sri Lankan firms like Brandix and MAS Holdings, among others, who have chosen to set up companies in India for manufacture and export of apparel. In recent months, the two countries have continued discussions to take the economic and commercial engagement to the next level.

7. People-to-people and cultural links constitute one of the cardinal pillars of our relationship. These ties will be further strengthened through India's focus on the 5 Ts - Tradition, Talent, Tourism, Trade and Technology, enunciated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Geographical proximity, historical linkages and more recently, the advent of peace, has resulted in a sharp increase in tourism-related exchanges between India and Sri Lanka, and India is today the largest source of tourists to Sri Lanka. We have focussed on increasing connectivity between India and Sri Lanka, and both countries now enjoy close connectivity by air with 113 weekly flights from Colombo to eight destinations in India. We are working for resumption of ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and between Talaimannar and Rameshwaram. The rehabilitation and extension of the railway network in Sri Lanka, and the resumption of ferry services, will boost people-to-people contacts. In order to strengthen our cultural linkages, both governments decided to jointly commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda in 2013 and that of Anagarika Dharmapala in 2014. I am happy to announce that Government of India would be issuing a commemorative postal stamp in India on Anagarika Dharmapala to mark the occasion.
8. I am also happy to note that to celebrate this Independence Day in Colombo, a special concert is being organized featuring by the well known Indian singer, Shanatanu Mukerjee, alias Shaan, on Sunday, August 17.
9. India is in the process of implementing a project for building a state-of-the-art Cultural Centre in Jaffna. Once completed, the Centre will create opportunities for networking and cooperation amongst artists and connoisseurs of art from all communities in Sri Lanka.
10. Recognising the immense potential that exists in the two countries to tap knowledge as a key driver of economic and social advancement, both countries have identified the education sector as a core component of our bilateral engagement. In recent years, India has been attracting a growing number of Sri Lankan students for tertiary education, as it offers a much more affordable alternative to other countries without compromising on quality. Currently, India offers about 290 scholarships to Sri Lankan students for higher studies in India and about 500 scholarships for studies in Sri Lanka. We welcome the youth of Sri Lanka to take full advantage of these scholarships.
11. India is privileged to be a partner in Sri Lanka's development efforts. India's developmental cooperation projects are entirely based on the priorities set by the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. Although the nature of Indian assistance has continued to evolve since 2009, the focus remains mainly on capacity building, human resource development and infrastructure support. Being part of the developing world and inspired by the experience of South-South cooperation, India has focused on a consultative and responsive model of cooperation by sharing its expertise and resources. The portfolio of development projects now encompasses virtually all major sectors of the economy, including housing, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, fisheries, industry, handicrafts, culture and sports, amounting to around US\$ 1.3 billion.
12. A lion's share of the development cooperation resources has been directed to the Housing Project involving construction of 50,000 houses with a commitment of over US\$ 270 million, thereby making it the flagship project of Indian grant assistance to this country, and, perhaps, the largest such project undertaken by India anywhere in the world. Till date, over 34,000 beneficiaries have been selected and first installment funds have been transferred to commence work. Around 14,000 houses have been completed in all respects till date, while about 20,000 houses are under various stages of completion. The Housing Project is expected to be completed by December 2015.
13. Restoration of transportation links is the lifeline of economic revival in any region affected by

conflict. Recognizing the salience of such links, India provided a line of credit of US\$ 800 million to improve the Railway Infrastructure in the Northern Province. India's project to restore the Southern Railway Line, damaged in the Tsunami of 2004, was completed in April 2012, ahead of schedule. The Northern Railway Line Project, which would restore rail connectivity between Omathai and Kankesanthurai, and also between Medawachchiya and Talaimannar, is also expected to be completed in 2014. With Government of Sri Lanka's plans to extend the southern line to Hambantota and even Kataragama, a time may soon come when our Sri Lankan brothers and sisters will be able to travel by rail / ferry from Kataragama to Bodh Gaya or any other part of India.

14. The promotion of employment opportunities and restoring livelihood of the people has been an important priority of India's development assistance strategy for Sri Lanka. An example of this was laying of the foundation stone for the Handicrafts Village at Hambantota in October 2013, and this project is on the verge of completion. A similar Handicrafts Village will be set up in Jaffna in the coming months.

15. Following the end of the military conflict in Sri Lanka, India has emphasized the importance of national reconciliation through a negotiated political settlement, acceptable to all the communities in the island, including the Tamils. India has urged all stakeholders to engage constructively, in a spirit of partnership and mutual accommodation, building on the positive statements of intent and the symbolic gestures made following the constitution of the Northern Provincial Council. This will ensure that the needs of the people of the Northern Province are addressed with a sense of urgency and purpose. Only a cooperative approach will pave the way for genuine reconciliation amongst the communities involved. India is ready to offer its support in a spirit of partnership and cooperation. India's emphasis, in this context, has been to encourage the Government to take decisive steps towards a focused and purposeful dialogue aimed at a meaningful devolution of powers. This would greatly facilitate national reconciliation by building trust and confidence on all sides.
16. I look forward to further strengthening of the close relations between India and Sri Lanka in the year ahead.





# India Independence Day Concert: Shaan

17 August 2014

To commemorate the 68th Independence Day of India, the Indian CEO Forum, in collaboration with the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka, organised an Independence Day Concert by the famous Indian singer, Shaan (Shantanu Mukherjee) at Stein Studio in Colombo on 17 August 2014.

The President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, and the First Lady, graced the occasion as the Chief Guests, and were welcomed by Mr Y. K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Mrs Girija Sinha and Mr Sanjay Tiwari, President of the Indian CEO Forum. Other prominent guests included Leader of Opposition Hon'ble Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prof Maithree Wickremesinghe; Minister of External Affairs Hon'ble Prof. G. L. Peiris and Mrs Savithri Peiris; Minister of Petroleum Industries, Hon'ble Anura Priyadharshana Yapa and his family; TNA leader Hon'ble R. Sampanthan and other Members of Parliament. Senior officials from the Government of Sri Lanka including Secretary to the President, Mr Lalith Weeratunga, and the Foreign Secretary, Mrs. Kshenuka Senewiratne, were also present on the occasion. Around two thousand invitees enjoyed the concert.

This was Shaan's first performance in Sri Lanka. He expressed his delight at the opportunity to perform in Colombo at the invitation of the High Commission of India, and more so in the presence of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka. Shaan enthralled the audience with his vast repertoire of songs for more than three hours, including his recent hits as well as some evergreen numbers from an era gone by. Befitting the occasion Shaan sang a few patriotic songs, which were followed by a song each in Sinhala and Tamil. He also sang some popular English songs. His melodious rendition of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite hymn "Vaishnav jan to tene kahiye" enthralled the audience. Shaan sang a number of songs on popular demand, and the concert, which invoked an enthusiastic response, went on till well into the night. Shaan confessed that he was completely overwhelmed by the appreciation shown by the audience.









# Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris holds bilateral talks with Indian External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj

11 July 2014



External Affairs Minister Professor G.L. Peiris, at his meeting with Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, in New Delhi on 11 July 2014, recalled with pleasure her visit to Sri Lanka two years ago as Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as the head of an All-Party delegation. He referred to Smt. Swaraj's constituency in the Lok Sabha, Vidisha, where Sanchi – the home of Emperor Ashoka's children, Arhat Mahinda and Theri Sanghamitta – continues to receive a large number of Sri Lankan pilgrims every year.

Minister Peiris said that the meeting in May 2014 between President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Modi on the occasion of the latter's swearing in ceremony was particularly constructive. He reiterated the President's invitation to Prime Minister Modi to undertake an official visit to Sri Lanka.

The two Ministers in their survey of projects assisted by India, noted with satisfaction that the housing projects have entered their second phase and that much of the railways infrastructure projects have been completed ahead of schedule.

Prof. Peiris thanked India for voting against Operative Paragraph 10 of the Human Rights Council Resolution on Sri Lanka in Geneva in March 2014, and indicated the steps being taken currently by Sri Lanka to continue and strengthen local mechanisms. He briefed his Indian counterpart on the Parliamentary Select Committee process in Sri Lanka and the need to ensure its inclusivity.

On the subject of fisheries, Minister Peiris said that, since the assumption of office of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Mahinda Rajapaksa has directed the release of 184 Indian fishermen held in Sri Lanka. The critical issues for Sri Lanka, he said, were deprivation of livelihoods of fishing communities

in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka and irreparable damage to the seabed and the ocean floor by the use of such fishing methods as bottom trawling. He expressed appreciation of the release of 41 Sri Lankan fishermen held in Andhra Pradesh a few days ago. The two Ministers discussed the importance of finding a lasting solution to the problem of fishermen crossing into each other's waters.

With regard to issues relating to economic cooperation, reference was made to the discussion between Finance and Commerce Secretaries last year. The Ministers discussed a range of practical modalities for enhancing the volumes of trade and investment. In this regard there was satisfaction that investment is now a two-way process between the two countries.

Since security and defense cooperation represents an important aspect of the bilateral relationship, the continuing open, transparent dialogue was appreciated. It was stated that the several defence-related mechanisms such as the annual Defence Secretary level dialogue, the Galle Dialogue on Naval issues, the Trilateral Maritime Security Dialogue at National Security Adviser-Defence Secretary level and the provision to Sri Lanka of two Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) and training of military personnel have consolidated the relationship in this area.

On regional cooperation, there was a discussion of SAARC-related issues. Prof. Peiris complimented India on reinvigorating the Indian Ocean Rim Association during its Chairmanship. Following the workshop on the establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Ocean Sciences and the Environment in Colombo two weeks ago, he sought India's support for the establishment of this Centre in Sri Lanka.

With regard to education and cultural matters, the Ministers discussed scholarships and placements granted to Sri Lankan students annually under several schemes to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Indian universities.

Since the last session of the Sri Lanka-India Joint Commission was held in Delhi in January last year, Prof. Peiris said that Sri Lanka would like to host the next session in Colombo before the end of the year.

He extended a warm invitation to his counterpart to visit Sri Lanka early.

# India to Assist the Faculty of Agriculture and Engineering at Kilinochchi

14 July 2014



The Government of India is happy to announce a partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka to assist in the setting up of a Faculty of Agriculture and a Faculty of Engineering for the University of Jaffna at Kilinochchi. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two Governments for the implementation of this project was signed on 14 July 2014 between the High Commissioner of India, Mr. Y.K. Sinha, and the Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne, in the presence of Hon'ble S.B. Dissanayake, Minister of Higher Education, Government of Sri Lanka and Ms. Vasanthi Arasaratnam, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna.

As part of the project, the Government of India will set up the physical infrastructure for the two Faculties. These include lecture halls, a conference hall, computer laboratory, library, and sports complex for the Faculty of Agriculture, and lecture halls, a conference hall, laboratories, administrative office and staff room for the Faculty of Engineering. The estimated cost of these facilities is SLR 600 million, which will be provided through grant assistance.

In addition to the physical infrastructure, the Government of India will also provide, through a reputed Indian institution, support for curriculum development, faculty exchanges, training and research.

A Project Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education and the Indian Deputy High Commissioner, would oversee the implementation of the Project. The project will benefit students pursuing professional courses in Agriculture and Engineering by providing them better facilities and improved learning environment.

India and Sri Lanka share a dynamic and multi-faceted

relationship, rooted in history, language, culture, religion and trade, which now encompasses all areas of contemporary relevance. India has been privileged to partner with Sri Lanka in its development efforts, and this project is yet another example of India's continued commitment. In this context, the Government of India attaches high priority to the education sector. Recognizing the immense potential that exists in the two countries to tap knowledge as a key driver of economic and social advancement, the two countries had agreed in 2010 to launch the "India - Sri Lanka Knowledge Initiative". Some of the elements of this Initiative include expansion of India's scholarship programme (currently about 800 scholarships are available annually to Sri Lankan students); India's assistance to the Ten-year Presidential Initiative to steer Sri Lanka towards a Trilingual Society by 2020; setting up of the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies (CCIS) at the University of Colombo; and India's assistance to the initiative of H.E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa on promoting English and Information technology.

Other projects that the Government of India has implemented for the education sector include the setting up of Nenasalas (e-Learning Centres) in Eastern, Western and Southern Provinces; renovation of 79 war-damaged schools in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya; setting up of five Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) at Puttalam, Batticaloa and Nuwara Eliya; supply of 1,260 computers and 218 laser printers to about 500 schools in the Eastern Province; setting up of a Siddha Faculty at Trincomalee; setting up language laboratories in each of the nine provinces of Sri Lanka to train teachers from schools and colleges; and gifting of 110 buses to educational institutions for assisting school students.



# Contract Agreement Signed for upgrading 70 Child Development Centers in Estate Sector

23 July 2014

Contract Agreement Signed for upgrading 70 Child Development Centers in Estate Sector

The Government of India will be upgrading 70 Child Development Centers (crèches) in the Estate Sector. Following the conclusion of the tendering process, the 'Contract Agreement' was signed with M/s. R.A.Constructions and M/s. Sarvo-Tech (Pvt) Ltd on July 22, 2014 in the presence of Mr. Y.K.Sinha, High Commissioner of India; Mr.Pathmasiri, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Livestock and Rural Community Development of Sri Lanka, Mr. K.Marimuthu; Chairman, Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), Mr. R.M.B.Ellegala; Director General, PHDT and other officials of the Government of Sri Lanka and the High Commission of India.

The Project is to be implemented at a cost of SLR 58 million, and will be taken up in seven estate regions viz. Hatton, Galle, Kandy, Ratnapura, Galle, Badulla & Kegalle. Ten crèches have been identified for renovation in each estate region. Apart from renovating the buildings, Government of India will also provide furniture to the crèches to assist children to

grow in a safe and hygienic learning atmosphere. The Project is expected to enable mothers engaged in the tea estates to go to work with the assurance that their children are in a safe environment. This will contribute to the economic empowerment of women and assist families in the estate sector.

The Government of India has been implementing a number of projects for the estate people of Central and Uva Provinces. These include setting up of two vocational training centers in Nuwara Eliya and Helboda; providing training instructors to the VTC at Hatton; offering 350 CEWET scholarships to estate students and another 440 scholarships for pursuing higher education in Sri Lanka and India; gifting of buses for educational institutions; construction of 150- Bed Hospital at Dickoya; and construction of a Mahatma Gandhi International Centre at Matale. The Housing Project for construction of 4,000 houses for the estate families is expected to commence later this year.



# Keynote address by the High Commissioner of India to Lanka, HE Mr. Y.K. Sinha, at the 17th Annual General Body Meeting of the Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka

31 July 2014

Hon'ble Anura Siriwardena, Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Hon'ble Rohan V. Daluwatte, Chairman, Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka (EASL), Members of the Managing Committee of EASL, Distinguished Guests,

It gives me great pleasure to participate in the 17th Annual General Meeting of Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka. I understand the Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka came into being on August 22, 1997 with the merger of the Export Section of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Exporters Association of Sri Lanka, and has done commendable work towards increasing and diversifying Sri Lankan exports. I am honoured to be invited to deliver the keynote address this evening.

Exports are an important component of the Sri Lankan economy and its salience in contributing further to the consolidation and growth of the economy must be recognized. This is because the economy grew at 7.3 % in 2013 and is expected to grow at 7.8% in 2014. In so far as the performance of exports is concerned, the Annual Report of the Central Bank states that the export performance of Sri Lanka, recovered in 2013 and export earnings grew by 6.4% to USD 10.3 billion in contrast to a decline of 7.4% in 2012. The export performance continues to be strong in the first half of 2014 with the total exports of Sri Lanka amounting to approximately USD 5.4 billion, an increase of 22.1% as compared to the same period last year.

Bilaterally, as you are aware, the cornerstone of our economic and commercial ties is the India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA). It was in view of the synergy and complementarities that exists between the two countries, India and Sri Lanka took the initiative of signing the first bilateral trade agreement with each other. The benefits that have accrued from this 14 year old Agreement are well documented. The ISLFTA led to the emergence of a genuinely vibrant economic relationship and resulted in a quantum jump in trade, investment and economic cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. Within two years of its coming into force, we saw a doubling of our trade turnover. In another three years, that is, by 2005, we doubled the trade turnover again. Between 2000 and 2008, the turnover



grew five times. The trade reached its highest level to date in 2011 when it amounted to nearly USD 5 billion. The total trade in 2013 was USD 3.76 billion.

Since the entry into force of the ISLFTA Sri Lankan exports to India have seen a more than 10 fold increase from USD 49 million in 1999 to USD 543 million in 2013. Bilateral trade is again looking up in the first six months of 2014 and exports to India from January-July 2014 have amounted to nearly USD 300 million, an increase of 7.42% as compared to the same period last year

In line with the basic spirit of the ISLFTA, some of the benefits available to exporters from Sri Lanka under the ISLFTA include:

**Garments:** 8 million pieces are allowed at zero duty with no fabric sourcing conditions [Prior to this only 3 million pieces were allowed].

**Textiles Quota:** A tariff reduction of 25% given for 528 textile items.

**Pepper Quota:** India enabled import of 2500 MT of pepper per annum from Sri Lanka through import authorization issued by DGFT, India.

We have also extended the validity period of the licences for processed meat from six months to one year. The quarantine restrictions on Rambutan and Mangosteen have been dispensed with.

**Tea Quota:** India provides 50% tariff preference on 5 tea items subject to a quota of 15 million kilograms per year.

I would also like to highlight that among all the major trade partners of Sri Lanka, India has the most balanced trade with Sri Lanka. India is the largest source of imports for Sri Lanka, but was also the third largest export destination after USA and UK accounting for 5.2 % of the total exports of the country. India has also attracted investment from Sri Lanka and firms like Brandix and MAS Holdings, among others, have chosen to set up companies there for manufacture and export of apparel.

We are aware that it is often stated that the FTA did not



address Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) which restrict market access to India. These issues have been regularly discussed between our authorities and both sides are working towards harmonization of standards and cooperation between the Customs departments of the two countries – the draft Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters as proposed by the Indian authorities is under consideration of the Sri Lankan authorities. Further, India is making genuine efforts for better trade facilitation. A proposal for a Goods and Services Tax (GST) is in an advanced stage of consideration by the Government of India and, when implemented, will lead to one tax for the entire country replacing the multitude of state taxes. With regard to quotas, they have been liberalized consistently in a way that Sri Lanka is allowed to self-administer them. Tackling NTBs was also discussed in detail during the visit of Commerce Secretary of India to Sri Lanka in June 2013 and it was decided that the Department of Commerce on both sides would be the focal point to coordinate and resolve problems arising from NTBs, by appointing suitable nodal officers from both sides. The issue was also taken up during the India visit of Secretary, Treasury accompanied by Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce in January 2014. So, there is forward movement and engagement in all matters.

The issue of Sri Lanka's trade deficit vis-à-vis India has been raised often. The way forward in this respect is for both countries to diversify and do so while moving out of their respective comfort zones. There is agreement among authorities of both countries that the economic engagement needs to be upgraded. In this context, it is to be noted that the services sector is increasingly accounting for a larger portion of the GDP of both our countries and needs to be tapped. The potential for tourism is self evident. India has consistently been the largest source of tourists to Sri Lanka. External tourism is linked to the growth of tourism-related infrastructure. There are opportunities with immense potential like the Ramayana trail development, which, if pursued, has the potential of exponentially increasing tourism revenue and reducing the trade deficit.

Another area with immense potential is education. In recent years, India has been attracting a growing number of Sri Lankan students for tertiary education, and offers a much more affordable alternative to other countries without compromising on quality. Many Indian institutions of excellence, such as the Manipal group, Symboisis and others, are interested in investing in Sri Lanka. Quality educational institutions in Sri Lanka would aid in capacity building and to some extent mitigate problems associated with the so-called "brain-drain", that many developing countries are confronted with.

There is also scope for collaboration in the area of construction services such as project management, engineering and architectural consultancy and maintenance services. The Indian hospitality giant ITC has committed USD 140 million to build a hotel just next to the Taj Samudra. In May this year, the ground breaking ceremony of the USD 430 million Slave Island Re-Development Project being implemented by

Tata Housing in partnership with the UDA was held. Indocean's Altair is another big project.

It is also pertinent to mention the following proposals that were offered during the visit of Shri. Anand Sharma, the then Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles, to Sri Lanka in August 2012, which aim to achieve the shared goals of poverty alleviation, job creation and economic development for the people of the two countries:

- a) bringing in Indian investments in some key areas where we have acknowledged strengths;
- b) Setting up a special economic zone for manufacture of automotive components and engineering goods and another exclusive economic zone for manufacture of pharmaceutical products.
- c) We also offered help to set up an industrial training institute, to equip local youth with the necessary skills for jobs at these zones.

We continue to await a favourable response from our Sri Lankan friends on these offers. Further, during the Eighth meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held in January 2013 in New Delhi, both sides recognized the need to build a special economic partnership framework and it was decided to take several steps to further deepen trade, tourism and investment relations.

The new government in India has been voted to power with a clear economic mandate. The government has pledged to revive economic growth through, inter-alia, re-visiting the policy framework for investments both foreign and domestic to make them more conducive, rationalization and simplification of the tax regime, bringing on board all State Governments in adopting GST, allowing FDI in sectors wherever needed for job and asset creation, infrastructure and acquisition of niche technology and specialized expertise, and a conducive, enabling environment to make 'doing business' in India easy.

Another area stressed by the new Government is closer economic cooperation and consolidation of the SAARC region. Given our shared history, closer economic engagement between our two countries will be mutually beneficial. We have laid stress on increased connectivity between India and Sri Lanka. Both the countries enjoy close connectivity by air with 113 weekly flights from Colombo to eight destinations in India. We are working for resumption of the ferry services between Colombo and Tuticorin and Talaimannar and Rameshwaram. With the rehabilitation and extension of the railway network in Sri Lanka and the resumption of ferry services, greater people to people contact will be facilitated. India and Sri Lanka have also been discussing the possibility of trading in energy taking into account availability of power in both countries as well as patterns of consumption. Export of power to India would help bridge the trade deficit.

I have sought to highlight present and emerging opportunities for enhancement of economic

engagement between India and Sri Lanka. Both countries need to work together to explore new avenues of cooperation, keeping in mind our inherent strengths and complementarities. The emergence of India as an engine for robust growth in the region provides manifold opportunities to its neighbours, particularly Sri Lanka, to be part of a shared success story. Greater economic integration will ensure optimum utilization of resources and synergies leading to a win win situation for all countries in South Asia.

India and Sri Lanka share a dynamic and multi-faceted relationship which is rooted in civilisational ties of

history, language, culture, religion and trade and I am sanguine that Sri Lanka, which till recently was India's largest trading partner in South Asia, will reclaim that status in the near future provided we are able to take our special economic partnership to the next level.

I once again thank the Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka for inviting me and wish all of you all the very best on the occasion of your 17th AGM and assure you of our unstinted cooperation in the furtherance of our shared goals and aspirations.

## Interview granted by HE Mr. Y.K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, to The Sunday Leader

17 August 2014.

### India For A Political Solution Within A United Sri Lanka – Y. K. Sinha

*As India celebrated its independence anniversary last week, the Indian High Commissioner to Colombo Y. K. Sinha noted that India remains committed to assist Sri Lanka in its endeavours of rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation. Speaking Exclusively to The Sunday Leader, Sinha said that the need for national reconciliation through a political settlement has been reiterated by India at the highest levels and India's consistent position is in favour of a negotiated political settlement, which is acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka and which is consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights.*

*By Easwaran Rutnam*



**Q:** There was a lot of negative publicity given when Mr. Modi won the elections with many claiming that ties between India and Sri Lanka will turn sour under a BJP government. However so far that does

**not seem to be the case. Where do you see India's relations with Sri Lanka heading over the next year or so?**

**A:** Shri Narendra Modi, who galvanised the nation on the promise of change, good governance and development, has been sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India. The Government, even while assuming office, sent a clear signal to the South Asian region and the world, by inviting for the first time in independent India, leaders of all SAARC countries and Mauritius to the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers on May 26. We are grateful to His Excellency, the President of Sri Lanka, for accepting the invitation at short notice. India is committed to work towards building a peaceful, stable and economically inter-linked neighbourhood, which is essential for the collective development and prosperity of the South Asian Region. The recent statement by Prime Minister, suggesting that the Indian Space Research Organisation develop a SAARC satellite and to "dedicate this satellite to our neighbourhood as India's gift," underlines this intention.

The India-Sri Lanka relationship is unique, from time immemorial. It is a relationship which is marked by close contacts at the highest political level, growing trade and investment, burgeoning infrastructural linkages, cooperation in the fields of development, education, culture and defence, as well as a broad understanding on major issues of international interest. It is of great



satisfaction that high-level bilateral interaction with the new Indian Government has already commenced with the successful visit in July to India by the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka, Prof. G. L. Peiris.

This augurs well for the future, and I am sure our partnership will progress in the spirit of being the closest of neighbours whose destinies are interlinked. The bilateral engagement is poised to scale even greater heights.

**Q: Is the human rights issue an obstacle in Indo-Lanka ties?**

**A:** Sri Lanka has always occupied a special place in Indian hearts. The bilateral relationship is too large and multi-dimensional to be affected by any single issue, since it is firmly anchored on the bedrock of civilisation ties and close people-to-people contacts.

India has followed a principled approach towards the situation in Sri Lanka, especially in respect of implementation of the LLRC recommendations, devolution of powers and progress towards a meaningful political settlement. It is our hope that the opportunity provided by the end to armed conflict in Sri Lanka, and subsequent positive developments such as the holding of elections to the Northern Provincial Council, can be utilised to ensure reconciliation and lasting peace and prosperity. This in turn will not only enhance the bilateral relationship but also promote peace, justice, equality and self-respect for all minorities, including the Tamil people, in Sri Lanka.

The need for national reconciliation through a political settlement has been reiterated by India at the highest levels. India's consistent position is in favour of a negotiated political settlement, which is acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka and which is consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights.

**Q: Is Sri Lanka's growing relationship with China a concern for India?**

**A:** I would not like to comment on Sri Lanka's relations with any third country. It is not a zero sum game. India's relationship with Sri Lanka is sui generis. All major communities in Sri Lanka trace their origins to India, depending on how far back you go in time. Sri Lanka's religions, language, culture and philosophy derive from the larger Indian cultural tapestry.

These shared historic affinities have been assiduously nurtured to create interlinks in every sphere of life, including beneficial economic ties that would enhance the well being and prosperity of our people. These ties will be further strengthened through India's focus on the 5 Ts – Tradition, Talent, Tourism, Trade and Technology, enunciated by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

**Q: How would India look at working with the TNA led northern administration?**

**A:** Following the end of the military conflict in Sri Lanka,

India has emphasised the importance of national reconciliation through a negotiated political settlement, acceptable to all the communities in the island, including the Tamils. India has urged all stakeholders to engage constructively, in a spirit of partnership and mutual accommodation. This will ensure that the needs of all Sri Lankans, particularly those most affected by decades of conflict, are addressed with a sense of urgency and purpose. Only a cooperative approach will pave the way for genuine reconciliation amongst the communities involved, by building trust and confidence on all sides. India is ready to offer its support to all stakeholders in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

**Q: What is your opinion on the post war developments in the North and is India looking at providing further assistance in that regard?**

**A:** After the end of a 30 year long internecine conflict, Sri Lanka is now ready to reap the peace dividend. India welcomed the holding of the Northern Provincial Council elections. India has urged Government of Sri Lanka and the TNA to engage constructively, in a spirit of partnership and mutual accommodation; building on the positive statements of intent and the symbolic gestures made by both sides after the Northern Provincial Council was constituted.

India's assistance in post-conflict recovery commenced in 2008 even before the armed conflict came to an end, and has developed as per the priorities set by the Government and people of Sri Lanka. It is guided and inspired by the rationale of South-South Cooperation and focuses especially on capacity-building, human resources development as well as infrastructure development. India's portfolio of development projects now encompasses virtually all major sectors of the economy, and is estimated at US\$ 1.3 billion.

The High Commission has recently published a brochure titled "India & Sri Lanka: A Partnership That Transcends Time", which was released by the Minister of Economic Development of the Government of Sri Lanka, Basil Rajapaksa. The brochure seeks to provide a glimpse into the extensive and multi-sectoral Development Cooperation Partnership between India and Sri Lanka, which has expanded significantly since the end of the armed conflict in 2009. It is available on our website and can be accessed to obtain details of ongoing and planned development projects.

**Q: Do you see more investment opportunities for Indian companies in Sri Lanka and if so in what areas can Indians invest more?**

**A:** The election of a new government in India with a clear mandate has also provided an excellent opportunity for further deepening our bilateral trade and investment linkages. The new government is committed to closer economic cooperation and consolidation of the SAARC region.

The India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), which aims to exploit the synergies and complementarities

that exist between the two countries, remains the cornerstone of our economic and commercial ties. The benefits that have accrued from this 14 year-old Agreement are well documented.

Premier Indian companies have shown great interest in Sri Lanka, investing in the country across sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, services, and construction. Many other companies from India in sectors like water management, hydrocarbons, renewable energy, and manufacturing are looking for opportunities in Sri Lanka.

The cumulative FDI approvals for Indian investments amount to almost US\$ 1 billion since 2003, with investment inflows of US\$ 50.5 million in 2013 and much more in the pipeline.

You may be aware that the Indian CEO Forum in Sri Lanka was launched in 2013 and is a professional

body of Indian corporate leaders in Sri Lanka across all industries who wish to use their collective experience to attract further Indian investment to the country, as well as ease the investment process for potential investors.

This dynamic economic relationship is set for further expansion. Both sides have decided to take several key steps to further deepen trade and investment relations, by focusing on increasing Sri Lanka's export capacity and tapping the vast potential of the services sector, thereby achieving a special economic partnership.

India is also the largest source of tourists to Sri Lanka. Last year Indian tourists constituted 16.38% of the total tourist inflows into Sri Lanka.

In recent months, the two countries have continued discussions to take the economic and commercial engagement to the next level.

## Prime Minister receives Tamil National Alliance delegation: August 23, 2014, New Delhi

25 August 2014



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today received a six-member delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) from Sri Lanka. The delegation is currently on a visit to India. The visit of TNA leaders is part of India's continuing engagement with the Government and political parties in Sri Lanka.

The TNA delegation briefed the Prime Minister on the situation in Sri Lanka and their assessment and expectations regarding devolution and national reconciliation.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for a political solution that addresses the aspirations of the Tamil community for equality, dignity, justice and self respect

within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. In this context, the Prime Minister urged all stakeholders in Sri Lanka to engage constructively, in a spirit of partnership and mutual accommodation, towards finding a political solution that builds upon the 13th Amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution.

The Prime Minister also assured the TNA delegation of India's continuing support

for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction works in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka particularly in projects relating to housing, livelihood generation, capacity building, education, hospitals and infrastructure.

The TNA delegation was led by Mr. R. Sampanthan, MP, and comprises Mr. Mavai S. Senathirajah, MP; Mr. K. (Suresh) Premachandran MP; Mr. P. Selvarajah MP; Mr. Selvam Adaikkalanathan MP and Mr. M.A. Sumanthiran MP.

The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shri Nripendra Misra, the National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval, and the Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh, were present at the meeting.



# Inauguration of Language Lab set up by India in Kandy

29 September 2014

Hon'ble Minister of Education of Sri Lanka, Mr. Bandula Gunawardana, and Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India, jointly inaugurated a Language Lab in Kandy on September 29, 2014 at a function held at Mahaweli National College of Education. Advisor to the President, Mr. Sunimal Fernando, Central Provincial Council members and several senior Government Officials were present on the occasion.

The Language Lab in Kandy is one of the nine Language Labs that the Government of India has set up in each of the nine provinces of Sri Lanka. The first Language Lab was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, in Gampaha in the Western Province in December 2013. Other locations where Language Labs have been set up include Jaffna, Polonnaruwa, Ampara, Kurunegala, Ratnapura, Badulla and Matara. The Language Lab project is being implemented as part of an MoU signed between India and Sri Lanka in 2011 for "Setting up of a Three-Tier English Language Training System in Sri Lanka". The total cost of the project is SLR 84 million, which is being implemented by the Government of India under full grant assistance through M/s Metropolitan Office (Pvt) Limited, Colombo. As part of the project, Government of India has provided 30 computer units and other related equipment, software and latest sophisticated teaching aids to each Centre, and has also trained five master trainers for each Centre.

The objective of the project is to help enhance English Language training infrastructure in Sri Lanka; raise the general level of proficiency in English language of various sections of society; impart training in the use of English language; familiarize English language teachers from schools, colleges and universities in Sri Lanka with recent trends in English language teaching; and upgrade their skills.

While inaugurating the Kandy Language Lab, Hon'ble Education Minister appreciated India's assistance in

the field of education, and said that this project would help advance English language skills of teachers and students in Sri Lanka. High Commissioner congratulated the Ministry of Education on the successful completion of the Language Lab at Kandy. He recalled that the scope and scale of India's Development Partnership projects in Sri Lanka had increased exponentially since the end of the armed conflict in 2009, with Indian assisted projects amounting to US\$ 1.63 billion and encompassing virtually all major sectors including housing, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, fisheries, industry, handicrafts and culture. Importantly, the projects were in line with the needs and priorities identified by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Government of India has attached high priority to the education sector in its development partnership with Sri Lanka. To help students from Sri Lanka pursue higher education in Sri Lanka and in India, 790 scholarships are offered every year, benefitting students all across the Island. Other projects in the education sector include setting up of 40 "Nenasalas" (e-Learning Centres) in Eastern, Western and Southern provinces; establishing Faculties of Agriculture and Engineering at Kilinochchi; renovating 79 war damaged schools in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya; supplying 1,260 computers and 218 laser printers to about 500 schools of the Eastern Province; setting up of a Siddha Faculty at Trincomalee; and gifting of 110 buses to education institutions to assist school going children.

A number of other Government of India assisted projects are being implemented in the Upcountry areas, such as the construction of the 150-Bed Hospital at Dickoya in Hatton; 70 crèches in the Estate sector; the Mahatma Gandhi Centre in Matale; and 4000 houses for the estate workers in Central and Uva Provinces.





# Prime Minister launches Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

28 August 2014

End financial untouchability for freedom from poverty.

"Vish-chakra se gareebon ki aazadi ka parv" – celebration of liberation of the poor from a poisonous cycle.

A record unprecedented in economic history – 1.5 crore bank accounts opened in one day.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, declared the beginning of the end of financial untouchability in India, with the opening of an estimated 1.5 crore bank accounts across the country, in an exercise unprecedented in scale in economic history.

Formally launching the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) at a function broadcast across the nation from Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, the Prime Minister described the occasion as a festival to celebrate the liberation of the poor from a poisonous cycle. (Vish-chakra se gareebon ki aazaadi ka parv)

Expressing satisfaction at a number of records being broken today, the Prime Minister said the nationwide success of the enrolment drive today would give confidence not just to the officials of the Department of Financial Services and banking sectors, but also to officers across the Union Government, that they can successfully achieve the goals that they set for themselves. "Never before would insurance companies have issued 1.5 crore accident insurance policies in a single day. Never before in economic history would 1.5 crore bank accounts have been opened in a single day.

**Forging Financial Inclusion**

**Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana**

**Objective:** Banking for all by providing basic banking accounts with a debit card that includes inbuilt accident insurance

<p><b>RuPay Debit Card with inbuilt Rs 1 lakh accident insurance cover</b></p> <p><b>By January 26, people opening accounts will get additional Rs 30,000 life insurance</b></p> <p><b>A record 1.5 crore accounts opened on Aug 28</b></p>	<p><b>First phase of the mission:</b> Starts this month, would end in January 26, 2015</p> <p><b>Second phase:</b> Will start from 2015 till 2018, covering aspects like micro insurance and pension schemes like 'Swavalamban'</p>
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Never before has the Government of India organized a programme of such scale – over 77,000 locations – with the participation of so many Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, Government and bank officials." He said the success is an inspiration for achieving new heights.

The Prime Minister said that though the initial target of PMJDY was to open bank accounts for 7.5 crore families in one year, he had exhorted the concerned officials to complete the task before the next Republic Day.

Elaborating the benefits under PMJDY, the Prime Minister said this was not a mere bank account, but had other benefits including an RuPay debit card, Rs 1 lakh accident insurance cover, and an additional Rs. 30,000/- life insurance cover for those opening bank accounts before January 26th, 2015. He said the account performance would be monitored and overdraft facility would be given. The Prime Minister said he had sent 7.25 lakh bank employees, exhorting them to help reach the target of 7.5 crore bank accounts, and bring freedom from financial untouchability.

The Prime Minister referred to the five beneficiary



The Minister of State for Finance, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, said the lady of the house had been given priority in the PMJDY. She said this scheme would touch the lives of everyone in a positive and



# Union Budget 2014-15 Highlights



The Union Budget for 2014-15 has been announced by Mr Arun Jaitley, Union Minister for Finance, Government of India, in Parliament on July 10, 2014

## Highlights of Union Budget 2014-15

### Overview of the Economy

- Aiming at 7-8 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 3-4 years.
- Decline in fiscal deficit from 5.7 per cent in 2011-12 to 4.5 per cent in 2013-14 mainly achieved by reduction in expenditure rather than by way of realisation of higher revenue.
- Road map for fiscal consolidation outlines fiscal deficit of 3.6 per cent for 2015-16 and 3 per cent for 2016-17.
- Improvement in current account deficit (CAD) from 4.7 per cent in 2012-13 to year end level of 1.7 per cent mainly achieved through restriction on non-essential import and slow-down in overall aggregate demand.

### Administrative Initiatives

- A stable and predictable taxation regime which will be investor friendly and spur growth.
- Resident tax payers enabled to obtain on advance ruling in respect of their income-tax liability above a defined threshold.
- New Urea Policy would be formulated.
- Introduction of GST to be given thrust.
- High level committee to interact with trade and

industry on regular basis to ascertain areas requiring clarity in tax laws is required to be set up.

- Employment exchanges to be transformed into career centres. A sum of Rs 100 crore (US\$ 1.67 million) provided.

### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- The composite cap in the insurance sector to be increased up to 49 per cent from 26 per cent with full Indian management and control through the FIPB route.
- Requirement of the built up area and capital conditions for FDI to be reduced from 50,000 square metres to 20,000 square metres and from US\$ 10 million to US\$ 5 million respectively for development of smart cities.

### Bank Capitalization

- Requirement to infuse Rs 240,000 crore (US\$ 40.09 billion) as equity by 2018 in our banks to be in line with Basel-III norms.
- Capital of banks to be raised by increasing the shareholding of the people in a phased manner.

### PSU Capital Expenditure

- PSUs will invest through capital investment a total sum of Rs 247,941 crore (US\$ 41.41 billion) in the current financial year.
- Smart Cities
- A sum of Rs 7,060 crore (US\$ 1.17 billion) is provided in the current fiscal for the project of developing 'one hundred Smart Cities'.

### Agriculture

- A sustainable growth of 4 per cent in Agriculture will be achieved.
- Government to establish two more Agricultural Research Institute of excellence in Assam and Jharkhand with an initial sum of Rs 100 crore (US\$ 1.67 million).
- An amount of Rs 100 crore (US\$ 1.67 million) set aside for 'Agri-tech Infrastructure Fund'.
- Rs 200 crore (US\$ 33.41 million) provided to open Agriculture Universities in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan and Horticulture Universities in Telangana and Haryana.
- Technology driven second green revolution with focus on higher productivity including "Protein



revolution" will be area of major focus.

- To provide institutional finance to landless farmers, it is proposed to provide finance to 500,000 joint farming groups of "Bhoomi Heen Kisan" through NABARD.
- A target of Rs 8 trillion (US\$ 133.61 billion) has been set for agriculture credit during 2014-15.
- Corpus of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) raised by an additional Rs 5,000 crores (US\$ 835.02 million) from the target given in the Interim Budget to Rs 25,000 crores (US\$ 4.17 billion).
- Education
- Government would strive to provide toilets and drinking water in all the girls' schools in the first phase. An amount of Rs 28,635 crore (US\$ 4.77 billion) is being funded for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rs 4,966 crore (US\$ 828.37 million) for Rashtriya Madhyamic Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).
- Rs 500 crore (US\$ 83.40 million) provided for 'Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya New Teachers Training Programme' to infuse new training tools and motivate teachers.
- Jai Prakash Narayan National Centre for Excellence in Humanities to be set up in MP.
- Rs 500 crore (US\$ 83.40 million) provided for setting up five more IITs in the Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.
- Five IIMs in the States of HP, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- Health and Family Welfare
- Free Drug Service and Free Diagnosis Service to achieve 'Health For All'.
- Two National Institutes of Ageing to be set up at AIIMS, New Delhi and Madras Medical College, Chennai.
- A national level research and referral Institute for higher dental studies to be set up.
- AIIMS like institutions in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Vidarbha in Maharashtra and Poorvanchal in UP. A provision of Rs 500 crores (US\$ 83.40 million) made.
- 12 new government medical colleges to be set up.
- 15 Model Rural Health Research Centres to be set up for research on local health issues concerning rural population.
- Housing Sector
- Extended additional tax incentive on home loans

shall be provided to encourage people, especially the young, to own houses.

- Mission on Low Cost Affordable Housing anchored in the National Housing Bank to be set up.
- A sum of Rs 4,000 crores (US\$ 667.27 million) for NHB from the priority sector lending shortfall with a view to increase the flow of cheaper credit for affordable housing to the urban poor/EWS/LIG segment is provided
- Infrastructure and Industry
- Central Government Departments and Ministries to integrate their services with the e-Biz—a single window IT platform—for services on priority by December 31, 2014.
- Rs 100 crore (US\$ 16.68 million) provided for setting up a National Industrial Corridor Authority.
- Proposed to establish an Export promotion Mission to bring all stakeholders under one umbrella.
- An institution to provide support to mainstreaming PPPs called 4PIndia to be set up with a corpus of Rs 500 crore (US\$ 83.40 million).
- Rs 11,635 crore (US\$ 1.94 billion) will be allocated for the development of Outer Harbour Project in Tuticorin for phase I.
- Scheme for development of new airports in Tier I and Tier II Cities to be launched.
- An investment of an amount of Rs 37,880 crore (US\$ 6.31 billion) in NHAI and State Roads is proposed which includes Rs 3,000 crores (US\$ 500.44 million) for the North East.
- Rs 100 crore (US\$ 16.68 million) is allocated for a new scheme 'Ultra-Modern Super Critical Coal Based Thermal Power Technology'.
- Rs 500 crore (US\$ 83.40 million) provided for Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Laddakh.
- For venture capital in the MSME sector, a Rs 10,000 crore (US\$ 1.66 billion) fund to act as a catalyst to attract private Capital by way of providing equity, quasi equity, soft loans and other risk capital for start-up companies with suitable tax incentives to participating private funds to be established.
- Rs 500 crore (US\$ 83.40 million) provided for developing 5 tourist circuits around specific themes.
- Sum of Rs 500 crore (US\$ 83.40 million) for developing a Textile mega-cluster at Varanasi and six more at Bareilly, Lucknow, Surat, Kutch,

Bhagalpur and Mysore.

- Pan India programme 'Digital India' to with an outlay of Rs 500 crore (US\$ 83.40 million) to be launched.

### Skill Development

- Skill India to be launched to skill the youth with an emphasis on employability and entrepreneur skills.
- A programme for the up gradation of skills and training in ancestral arts for development for the minorities 'Up gradation of Traditional Skills in Arts, Resources and Goods' to be launched.

### Budget Estimates

- Total expenditure of Rs 1,794,892 crore (US\$ 299.49 billion) estimated.
- Gross Tax receipts of Rs 1,364,524 crore (US\$ 227.68 billion) estimated.
- Net to centre of Rs 977,258 crore estimated.
- Fiscal deficit of 4.1 per cent of GDP and Revenue deficit of 2.9 per cent estimated.
- New Statement to separately show plan allocation made for North Eastern Region.
- Allocation of Rs 53,706 crore (US\$ 8.96 billion) for North East Regions.

### Direct Taxes Proposals

- Personal Income-tax exemption limit raised by Rs 50,000 (US\$ 834.42) that is, from Rs 200,000 (US\$

337.69) to Rs 250,000 (US\$ 4,170.43) in the case of individual taxpayers, below the age of 60 years. Exemption limit raised from Rs 250,000 (US\$ 4,170.43) to Rs 300,000 (US\$ 5,004.51) in the case of senior citizens.

- Investment limit under section 80C of the Income-tax Act raised from Rs 100,000 (US\$ 1,668.17) to Rs 150,000 (US\$ 2,502.26).
- Investment allowance at the rate of 15 percent to a manufacturing company that invests more than Rs 25 crore (US\$ 4.17 million) in any year in new plant and machinery. The benefit to be available for three years i.e. for investments upto March 31, 2017.

### Indirect Tax Proposals

- To encourage production of LCD and LED TVs below 19 inches in India, basic customs duty on LCD and LED TV panels of below 19 inches reduced from 10 per cent to Nil.
- To give an impetus to the stainless steel industry, increase in basic customs duty on imported flat-rolled products of stainless steel from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent.
- Reduction in the excise duty from 12 per cent to 6 percent on footwear of retail price exceeding Rs 500 (US\$ 8.33) per pair but not exceeding Rs 1,000 (US\$ 16.66) per pair.
- Reduction in basic customs duty from 10 per cent to 5 per cent on forged steel rings used in the manufacture of bearings of wind operated electricity generators.

Courtesy: <http://www.ibef.org/>

# INDIAN ECONOMY OVERVIEW

## Introduction

India is currently one of the world's most attractive investment destinations. With the opening up of foreign direct investment (FDI) in several sectors, the country is an eye-catching destination for overseas investors. The relaxation of norms by the government has also created a vast opportunity for foreign players, who are competing for a greater role in the Indian market. Sectors projected to do well in the coming years include automotive, technology, life sciences and consumer products.

The HSBC's Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) touched a 17 month high at 54.4 points in June 2014 as compared to 50.2 points in May 2014, which is a positive sign for the services sector in India.

Also, India made its entry into the club of the top 15 ultra-high-net-worth households (more than US\$ 100 million in private financial wealth) in 2013 obtaining the 13th rank with 284 such households.

Further, there has been marked improvement in the hiring scenario in the country, as Naukri Job Speak Index for May 2014 showed a 14 per cent increase in hiring activity when compared to May 2013.

Furthermore, the US\$ 1.2 trillion investment that the government has planned for the infrastructure sector in the 12th Five-Year Plan is set to help in further improving the export performance of Indian companies and the Indian growth story, which will consequently improve the overall Indian economy.



## Market size

India holds a 6.4 percent share of global gross domestic product (GDP) on purchasing power parity (PPP) basis and presently is the third biggest economy in the world in terms of PPP, according to a World Bank report.

The industrial sector in India looks positive as industrial production grew at a 13-month high rate of 3.4 per cent in April 2014, driven mainly by electricity generation and manufacturing, as indicated by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The trade and external sector showed improvement as exports posted double-digit growth in May, 2014, the highest in six months, as shipments of key commodities registered strong increases.

According to a latest report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), India is all set to become the world's third largest economy by the year 2030.

## Key Developments/Investments

According to an HSBC report, Indian equities markets have seen foreign institutional investors (FII) net inflow of US\$ 2.3 billion in May 2014, taking the total to US\$ 7.8 billion so far in 2014. The report also quoted that India is still the most loved market in this region. There has been a number of investments and major developments in India in the recent past. Some of them are as follows:

Overseas investors have invested around US\$ 20.4 billion in the Indian market in the first half of 2014, mainly on hopes of a stable and reform-oriented government at the Centre. FIIs have helped in pushing up the benchmark BSE sensex by over 20 per cent in the first six months of the year.

Six qualified institutional placements (QIPs) launched in India during April-June 2014 raised Rs 12,151 crore (US\$ 2.01 billion) compared with Rs 1,222 crore (US\$ 201.9 million) raised in the same quarter in 2013.

Japan's Isuzu Motors aims to sell 50,000 pickup vehicles in India in the next few years to gain market leadership. The company, which has a fully owned subsidiary in Chennai, has earmarked Rs 3,000 crore (US\$ 495.66 million) for a 120,000-units-per-year manufacturing facility close by.

Venture capital (VC) investments in India surged during the first half of 2014, reflecting optimism about India's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Investments in early stage companies and startups grew nearly 40 per cent as compared with the same period in 2013, according to data released by Ernst & Young (EY).

Private equity (PE) firm SAIF Partners plans to make up to eight investments in FY 15 across different sectors, in an effort to significantly ramp up its investment pace in India and plan for more exits through the public market.

Sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and overseas pension funds plan to invest in India, driven by likelihood of

economic recovery under a new stable government. At least three sovereign funds from West Asia have invested over US\$ 5 billion in the past eight months.

## Government Initiatives

India has become a promising investment destination for foreign companies looking to do business here, after the new government led by Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India took over, according to Mr Nitin Nohria, Dean, Harvard Business School (HBS). The Government of India has taken several initiatives to improve the Indian economy, which has been responsible for a number of positive outcomes.

- India's foreign exchange reserves rose by US\$ 857 million for the week ending on June 27, 2014, to touch US\$ 315.78 billion, while foreign currency assets rose by US\$ 851 million to reach US\$ 288.81 billion. This can be attributed to the RBI announcing a few measures in its bi-monthly monetary policy which included a hike in the foreign exchange remittance limit to US\$ 125,000 from the previous limit of US\$ 75,000.
- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has sanctioned seven new projects worth Rs 87.88 crore (US\$ 14.52 million) in FY 15, which include projects for road construction, irrigation scheme and renewal of electric installations.
- In order to better the ways of doing business, the Government of India has extended the validity period of an industrial licence to three years from two years, with a provision for further extension by two years.

## Road Ahead

The total value of India's listed companies is expected to cross the US\$ 1.5 trillion mark within the next 12 months as India enters the top 10 club of countries by market capitalisation.

Also, India could become the world's seventh biggest nation in terms of private wealth, with a 150 per cent increase in total, from US\$ 2 trillion in 2013 to US\$ 5 trillion by 2018, as per a recent study by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Thus, the Government of India's initiatives for improving trade and infrastructure can go a long way in improving the country's overall economy and make it a force to reckon with in the global economic scenario.

Exchange Rate Used: INR 1 = 0.0165 as on August 26, 2014

*References: Press Information Bureau (PIB), Media Reports, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)*

# Mars Orbiter Spacecraft Successfully Inserted into Mars Orbit

24 September 2014



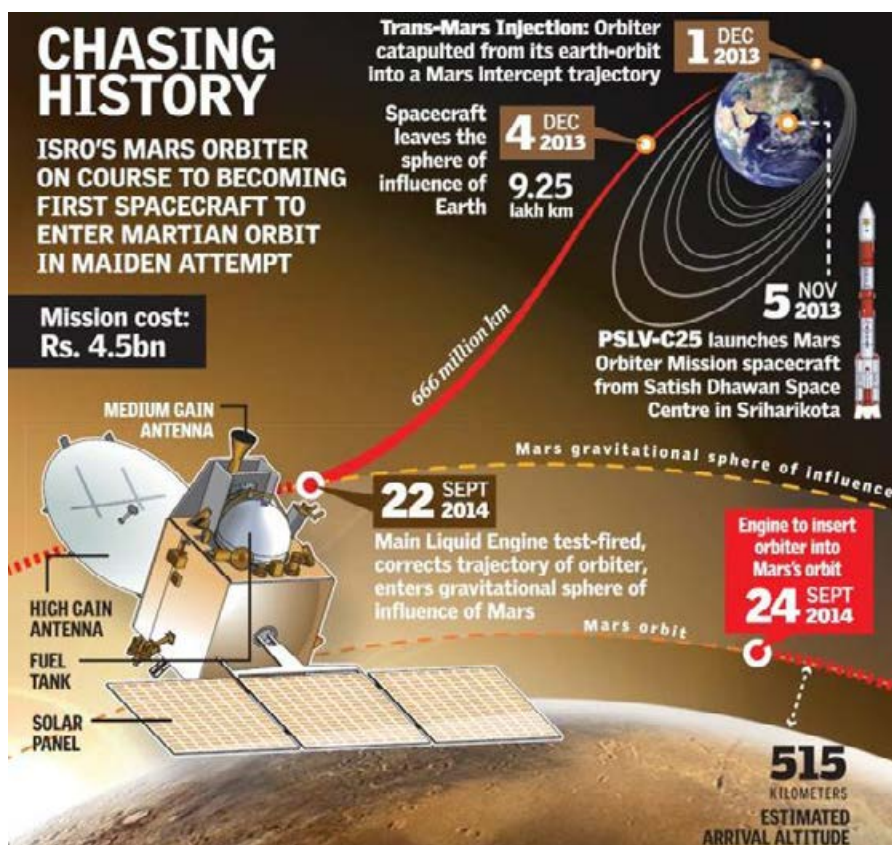
India's Mars Orbiter Spacecraft successfully entered into an orbit around planet Mars today morning (September 24, 2014) by firing its 440 Newton Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) along with eight smaller liquid engines. This Liquid Engines firing operation which began at 07:17:32 Hrs IST lasted for 1388.67 seconds which changed the velocity of the spacecraft by 1099 metre/sec. With this operation, the spacecraft entered into an elliptical orbit around Mars. Honourable Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, was present at ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bangalore to witness this important event.

Other dignitaries who were present at ISTRAC include His Excellency Governor of Karnataka, Mr Vajubhai R Vala, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Mr D V Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr Ananth Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Minister of State (Space), Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Mr G M Siddeswara, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mr Prahlad V Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Transport, Government of Karnataka, Mr Ramalinga Reddy and Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Government of Karnataka, Mr Muniraju S. Prof U R Rao, former chairman, ISRO and Prof Yash Pal, former director, Space Applications Centre, were also present.

The events related to Mars Orbit Insertion progressed satisfactorily and the spacecraft performance was normal. The Spacecraft is now circling Mars in an orbit whose nearest point to Mars (periapsis) is at 421.7 km and farthest point (apoapsis) at 76,993.6 km. The inclination of orbit with respect to the equatorial plane of Mars is 150 degree, as intended. In this orbit, the spacecraft takes 72 hours 51 minutes 51 seconds to go round the Mars once.

Mars Orbiter Spacecraft was launched on-board India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV on November 05, 2013 into a parking orbit around the Earth. On December 01, 2013, following Trans Mars Injection (TMI) manoeuvre, the spacecraft escaped from orbiting the earth and followed a path that would allow it to encounter Mars on September 24, 2014.

With today's successful Mars Orbit Insertion operation, ISRO has become the fourth space agency to successfully send a spacecraft to Mars orbit. In the coming weeks, the spacecraft will be thoroughly tested in the Mars orbit and the systematic observation of that planet using its five scientific instruments would begin.





# India's farmers beating climate change with technology

18 September 2014 - By Shilpa KannanBBC News, Haryana, northern India



It's the end of the monsoon season in India. But it's not been a good year.

During the sowing and planting season, when water was needed the most, rain was largely absent.

Now it's nearly harvest time and it has been raining heavily.

But for farmer Lovepreet Singh in the northern Indian state of Haryana, all is not lost.

He has been getting help from new technology, like the GreenSeeker - a handheld gadget that works as a crop sensor.

As Mr Singh points to a patch of crops, the sensor emits brief bursts of red and infrared light.

By measuring the amount of each type of light that is reflected back from the plant, the device can calculate and display the health of the crop.

He uses it to assess how much nitrogen the soil needs in each section of land.

This is just one of the gadgets he uses, meaning that what might once have been a disastrous harvest is not looking as bleak as it could have done, according to Mr Singh.

"Using technology has helped us a lot," he says.

"I get better weather forecasts so I can plan when to sow seeds or spray the plants. Otherwise I would

spend a lot of money and labour on my fields and unexpected rains would just wash everything away.

"While my profits haven't gone up dramatically, technology is helping me reduce my losses."

With more than 50 acres of land, Lovepreet Singh's entire family lives off the farm. Like him, most people here are completely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

But not everyone can afford to invest in expensive technology - the GreenSeeker comes in at nearly 40,000 rupees (£400; \$680)

So the local agriculture society helps them by procuring it and letting farmers use it for free.

## Smooth it out

They are also using another new technology in these parts, called laser land levelling.

Laser-controlled devices are mounted on tractors, and these help farmers level the land into a flat surface. This method of tilling helps them save 25-30% of water during cultivation.

Another method to save water and labour costs is to introduce direct seeding by machine for the paddy crop.

This replaces the usual method of making paddy nurseries and then transplanting the seedlings manually.

Traditionally, Indian farmers spend a lot of money





hiring labour after every harvest to clean the residual crop.

They then make huge piles of the waste and burn them - polluting the environment and often creating a thick, grey smog over cities like Delhi.

Now, to avoid burning the crops, “happy seeders” have been introduced.

These are attachments mounted on tractors, that help sow wheat even when the paddy residue is still standing on the fields.

The state government has introduced a subsidy to help farmers buy the machine, as it costs over 100,000 rupees.

Leaving the crop residue in the fields helps increase the organic matter, better controlling moisture and temperature levels.

### Old friends

It's not just technology that is helping.

Surrounded by lush green farms in Karnal, Haryana, it is hard to imagine that farmers here could be worried about climate change.

Once known as the grain basket of India, farmers here are now worried about a lack of fertility in the soil, and decreasing groundwater levels.

Experts have warned that the impact of climate change means that in the coming years, the yield here will go down significantly. Rice farmers in the area are the first ones to be affected.

One way to combat this is to reintroduce traditional crops such as maize, which was once a staple here.

Thirty-four-year-old Vikas Chaudary has planted rice, maize and wheat.

He not only monitors water levels, but has installed a micro weather station in his field.

Maize was once considered a poor man's food but now

it is in demand, much of it going to China as poultry feed.

The area where maize is grown has almost doubled in Haryana in the last few years. It is now selling for about the same price as rice and costs a lot less to grow.

“Switching to maize has been my best decision so far. My forefathers once grew only maize here before the whole region switched to basmati rice,” he says.

“I still grow some rice but I have switched half my fields to maize because this uses at least 70% less water compared to a paddy crop. We can harvest it a month faster too, saving us a lot of money.”

### Be ‘climate smart’

Taraori is one of dozens of villages in this state to start adapting the way they do things as a result.

The village is part of an initiative led by the global consultancy, Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) in India.

People here have been helped to move to so-called “climate smart” technology, trying to mitigate the impact changing weather patterns are having.

The Asia Development Bank recently warned that the impact of altered weather patterns could cause huge damage to the Indian economy, wiping off the equivalent of about 9% of GDP each year by the next century.

So it is critical to adapt, says Surabhi Mittal, an agricultural economist from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre.

“A two-degree increase in temperature is going to impact the yield of wheat the most,” she says.

“That means the producers and consumers are going to suffer. Wheat yields might go down. That means food prices are going to be higher for consumers.

“That also means that there is a huge additional subsidy that the government would have to bring in.”

The local government is slowly changing its agricultural policy to recognise the effects of changing climates.

And while not all farmers here have switched to new techniques, seeing neighbours who succeed when they do so is bound to be a strong incentive.



## Admission to Courses in Dance and Music at the Indian Cultural Centre

10 July 2014

The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo admitted students to the Instrumental courses - Sitar, Violin and Tabla, Vocal Music courses – Hindustani and Carnatic and the Dance courses Bharatha Natyam and Kathak for the year 2014.

The sitar course will be conducted by Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo, Senior Lecturer at the University of Visual and Performing Arts. Violin course will be conducted by Mr. Somasiri Illesinge, renowned violinist. Table course will be conducted by Mr. S.W.Randoowa, renowned tablist.

The Hindustani Vocal Music classes will be conducted

by Dr. Premadasa Mudunkotuwa and the Carnatic Vocal Music classes will be conducted by Dr. Aruthathy Sri Renganathan.

The Bharatha Natyam classes will be conducted by Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan, disciple of late Vazhvoor Ramiah Pillai & Ms. Vasugy Jegatheeswaran, disciple of Padmashri Adyar K.Lakshman . The Kathak classes will be conducted by Ms. Moksha Samarasuriya who received her Kathak dance training at Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music Govt. of U.P, Lucknow.

## Bharatha Natyam Recital by Abirami Patkunam

11 July 2014

On 11 July 2014 Abirami Patkunam presented a Bharatha Natyam Recital at the Centre. Her recital included Kauthuwam, Sri Raja Rajeswari ashtakam, Jegathodarana, Chaliye Kunjanamo and concluded with Mangalam. Abirami Patkunam has completed her Post Graduate Diploma in Visual Communication at Loyala

College, Chennai and Bachelor of Arts (Choreography) at Bangalore University, India. She has been trained by eminent gurus in Bharatha Natyam, Kalaree and Kathak in India. At present, she is pursuing her Masters Degree in Bharatha Natyam at the Madras University.



## Film screening : Yoga: Aligning to the Source

15 July 2014

A documentary film titled Yoga: Aligning to the Source by Raja Choudhury (2013) was screened on July 15 at Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) auditorium

The film introduces audiences to the vast subject of Yoga. Millions of people around the world today practice some form of Yoga and this film explores the origins of Yoga, its development and practices, its integration across religions in



India, the science behind it and its successful spread all over the world. It demonstrates how yoga can be a comprehensive set of tools for life, for realigning one's mind and body in equilibrium and for accessing a higher sense of consciousness and awareness.

The film was directed by Raja Choudhury produced by the Public Service Broadcasting Trust.

## Bharatha Natyam Recital by Natyamayuri Archana Narayanamurthy

21 July 2014

On 21 July Natyamayuri Archana Narayanamurthy presented a Bharatha Natyam Recital at the Centre. Her recital included Ravana Shiva Tandava Stotram, Varnama, Bavayami Gopala Balam, Kavadi Sindhu, Thillana and concluded with Vande Mataram. Proficient among the Bharatha Natyam dancers of younger generation Archana Narayanamurthy for more than 12 years had her training and completed her Arangetram under Ms P Suryakala, International

Dance Director of The Temple of Fine Arts. "A" Grade Artist of Doordarshan, got merit scholarship for dance from the Ministry of Human Resource the Govt. of India for the Year 1999 - 2001 and the Karnataka scholarship from the Rabindra Kalashetra, Bangalore for the year 2002. She is an empanelled artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi (ICCR) and India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRCEN).





## Hindustani Vocal Music Recital

30 July 2014

On 30 July 2014 Palinda Udawela Arachchi presented a Hindustani Vocal Music at the Centre. He sang Vilambit Kheyal, Madhyalaya Kheya and Druth Kheyal on raag Jog Kownse, Turi based on raag Binna sadaj and a Daadra based on raag Pheelu. Palinda has successfully completed his Master of Music and Bachelor of Music

degrees at the Banaras Hindu University in India. He has participated in several competitions both in India and Sri Lanka and won prizes. He has also performed at the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in the year 2011.



## Hindustani Vocal Music Recital by Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri

8 August 2014

The Indian Cultural Centre, organized a Hindustani Vocal Music Recital by Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri at its auditorium located at on 8 August 2014.

Harmonium by Moksha Samarasooriya, Violin by Isuru Kondasinghe, Sanjaya Hemal Wahalathanthri, Tampura by Palinda Udawela Arachchi, Tabla by

Bandula de Silva

Sanjaya is presently doing his M.P.A. (Master of Performing Arts – final year) in Hindustani Classical Music at the Bhatkhande University, Lucknow, India.



## Sargam, Hindi Musical Event

22 August 2014

Dr. Ajith Jayaratne and his group presented an evening of Hindi songs at the Indian Cultural Centre on 22

August 2014. The Music was composed by exotic musician Mervin Priyantha.



## Carnatic Vocal –Workshop / Carnatic Vocal Performance

27 August 2014

The Indian Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Hindu Educational Society, organized a workshop on Carnatic Vocal music by Shri T.V.Ramprasad and his musicians on 27 August 2014, at Saraswathi Hall, Colombo.

Around 60 music students and teachers participated

in the workshop, which lasted for two and a half hours. Shri. Ramprasad and his musicians explained different raagas, demonstrated the differences in taala system and answered questions about Carnatic music asked by the participants during the interactive session. The workshop was well received.





## Bharatha Natyam Recital

25 August 2014

A performance of the well known Bharata Natyam exponent, Ms. Lavanya Ananth, was organized at the South Lawns, Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo on 25 August 2014 by the Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with India Sri Lanka Society and the India Sri Lanka Foundation as part of the 68th Independence Day.

High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Mr. Y.K. Sinha and Mrs. Girija Sinha graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.

Almost 300 guests from a cross section of Sri Lankan society including eminent citizens, diplomatic corps, members from art, culture, media, films and theatre attended the event.

In his address, the High Commissioner, spoke of the age old bilateral cultural, civilizational, linguistic links between India and Sri Lanka, which have now grown to encompass all areas of contemporary relevance. He recalled that a number of events were organized by India in recent years to highlight the common bonds cherished by the two countries. These events have helped in further cementing the bilateral cultural ties.

Ms. Lavanya Ananth commenced her Bharatha Natyam performance, titled Deva Nruthya – The Celestial Art of Ancient, by explaining the basics of Bharata Natyam and its origins. Her performance, which lasted for more than 75 minutes, was very well received by the audience. The artistes were honoured with souvenirs by the President and office bearers of India Sri Lanka Society.



## Screening of Hindi Film “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge”

27 August 2014

Indian Cultural Centre screened one of the most popular romantic Hindi Film “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge” directed by Aditya Chopra and music by Jatin Lalit on 29 August 2014 at its auditorium located. It features Shahrukh Khan, Kajol, Amrish Puri and Farida Jalal.

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge was ranked by India Times Movies among the “25 Must See Bollywood Films”. It was also placed 12th on the British Film Institute’s list of the top Indian films of all time.

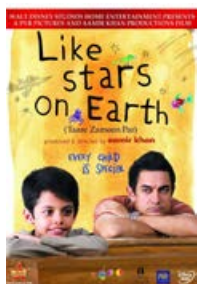


## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDYING HINDI IN INDIA

04 September 2014

Each year 10 scholarships to Sri Lankan students are awarded for studying Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (Central Institute of Hindi) at Agra. This year the students who have been selected visited the High

Commission and met His Excellency Y.K Sinha, the High Commissioner of India and Ms. Esha Srivastava, First Secretary (Press & Information) before their travel to India to pursue one year course in Hindi.



## Screening of Hindi Film “Taare Zameen Par”

10 September, 2014

Indian Cultural Centre screened one of the most popular Hindi film Taare Zameen Par directed by Aamir on 10 September 2014 at its auditorium.

The film explores the life and imagination of eight-year-old Ishaan (Darsheel Safary). Taare Zameen Par has received numerous awards, including the Film Fare Best Film Award for 2008 and the 2008 National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare.

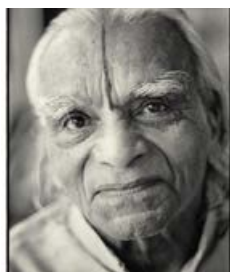
## Bharatha Natyam Duet by Ananya and Apoorva

12 September 2014

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized Bharatha Natyam Duet by Ananya and Apoorva from India on 12 September 2014 at its auditorium .

Ananya S.Rao, and Apoorva S.Rao, known as “Bharatha Natyam” duets and probably first twin sisters giving high quality “Bharatha Natyam” stage programmes. They have given more than 300 stage shows in various high profile stages like “Dasara,” Youth Festival held in Mangalore, “Alva’s Virasat”, Mudabidri,” Paryaya Utsava” held at Udupi etc. Their recent duet Bharatha Natyam performance at Kerala’s famous Adoorbhasi film Awards 2013 held at VJT Hall, Trivandrum.

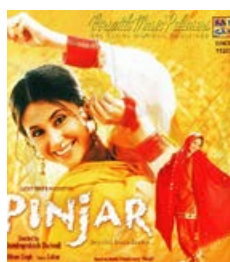
Their Duet Bharatha Natyam is unique and famous. They received “Nritya Jyoti” award at Bhubaneswar and “Karnataka Chethana” award at Bangalore. They also performed in “Naadaneerajanam” at Tirupathi, Karuru Naatyanjali Festival, Sripuram Golden Temple Vellore, Doordarshana Chanda’s program “Madhuramadhuravee Manjula Gaana”. They are presently preparing for “Vidvat” in “Bharatha Natyam” under Guru Vidushi Vidyashree Radhakrishna of “Gaana Nritya Akademi(R) Mangalore. Recently they have passed senior grade “Bharatha Natyam” examination conducted by Karnatak Govt in first class.



## Tribute to Yogacharya B.K.S.Iyengar

28 August, 2014

Ashtanga Yoga Mandhir in collaboration with the Indian Cultural Centre organized an event to pay tribute to late Yogacharya B.K.S.Iyengar. Yoga instructors from leading yoga institutions in Sri Lanka participated in this event. Around 40 guests attended the event.



## Screening of Hindi Film “Pinjar”

19 September 2014

Indian Cultural Centre screened Hindi Film “Pinjar”. A film directed by Prakash Dwivedi and music by Uttam Singh on 19 September 2014 at its auditorium.

The film is based on a Punjabi novel of the same name, written by Amrita Pritam. Urmila Matondkar, Manoj Bajpai and Sanjay Suri are in the lead roles.



## Hindi Diwas 2014

15 September 2014

Hindi Diwas - A variety programme by the Hindi students of the Indian Cultural Centre / Award ceremony for the

winners of the Hindi Diwas Competitions



## Pradeep Gunaratne Team Shines in India

Promosing Pradeep Gunaratne who is a student of the Arpeggio Creative Dance Academy was in India together with six other team members, taking part in a cultural dance programme, under the guidance of ACDA chief Nilan Maligaspe.

The tour sponsored by the Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation as a part of its India-Lanka dance exchange programme, has helped Lankan dancers to exchange expertise in these cultural aspects during the past four years.

The main cultural programme was held from August

24 to 27 at the MMC Centre in Ladakh highlighting upcountry, low country and peacock dance while Nilan Maligaspe conducted a two-day hip hop workshop at the Natya Ballet Centre which was attended by participants representing several countries. The programme was coordinated by Ven. Sangasena Thera of the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre.

Nilan Maligaspe said he was grateful for the support extended by Indian High Commission, First Secretary, Ms. Esha Srivastava,.





# India Independence Day 2014: **Colourful Celebrations in Pictures**



Courtesy: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk>





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