



सत्यमेव जयते

# SANDESH

July - September 2015



# SANDESH

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Front Cover:

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi meeting with H.E Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe Prime Minister of The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in New Delhi (September 15, 2015)



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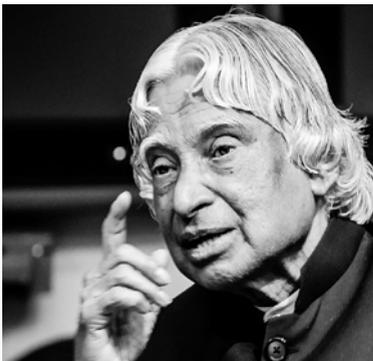
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# Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's Eight-Day Visit to Central Asia and Russia

July 6-13, 2015

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, completed an eight-day whirlwind tour of five Central Asian countries and Russia during which ties with these nations were strengthened and India was accepted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi completed the final leg of his trip in Tajikistan after holding talks with the leadership in Dushanbe.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had embarked on the tour on July 6, starting with Uzbekistan. During his visit, India and Uzbekistan decided to boost ties in key areas of atomic energy, defence and trade.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi subsequently visited Kazakhstan. Both countries inked five key agreements including a defence pact to enhance military cooperation and a contract for supply of uranium.

The Prime Minister then flew to Ufa, Russia, from Astana to attend the BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summits.

In Ufa, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held important bilateral meetings with world leaders. On the first day, he met Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi also met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and discussed wide ranging issues, including the strategically important Chabahar port project.

On his third day in Ufa, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

Breaking the deadlock between the two countries with the meeting, the two leaders decided to revive the stalled dialogue process and quicken the Mumbai attack case trial.

During his Ufa stay, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held bilateral meetings with BRICS leaders and attended the BRICS and SCO summits. At the SCO Summit, India was accepted as a full member.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi then visited to Ashgabat where after holding talks with the leadership, he spoke for the need of early implementation of the USD 10 billion TAPI pipeline project.

From there Prime Minister Shri Narendra travelled to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. During his visit, India and Kyrgyzstan signed four agreements including one to boost defence cooperation and hold annual joint military exercises. On the final leg of his tour Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visited Tajikistan.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Republic of Uzbekistan

July 6-7, 2015

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Islam Karimov, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan on July 6-7, 2015.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Prime Minister of India held friendly, substantive and constructive discussions. They reached an understanding on a wide range of issues to further deepen Uzbekistan-India strategic relations, mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in various fields, as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, signed three agreements with Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov in Tashkent. Shri Modi and Mr. Karimov discussed ways to enhance strategic, economic and energy ties. Key regional issues were also discussed.

Both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation in Defence and Cyber Security.

The two leaders discussed ways to implement the contract for supply of uranium from mineral-rich Uzbekistan signed in 2014. The pact was signed for supply of 2,000 metric tonnes of the yellow cake.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi invites Uzbekistan to join international North-South transport corridor and says India's presence in SCO will strengthen the organisation.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, said President Karimov was supportive of strengthening ongoing cooperation in the areas of agriculture, information technology and energy.

India lauded Uzbekistan's support for India's membership in SCO and Permanent Membership of UNSC.

Both countries have expressed their intention to

strengthen coordination between the law enforcement agencies and special services.

The two countries noted the importance of promoting long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships among their business communities, companies and enterprises.

During the delegation-level talks, the two countries also agreed to explore various options to enhance surface connectivity between them.

The two sides recognised tourism as an important area of bilateral cooperation and agreed to implement practical measures.

The Prime Minister of India expressed his gratitude to the President of Uzbekistan and the Uzbek people for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended during the visit.

The Prime Minister of India invited the President of Uzbekistan to pay a visit to India at his convenience. The dates of the visit shall be agreed through diplomatic channels.

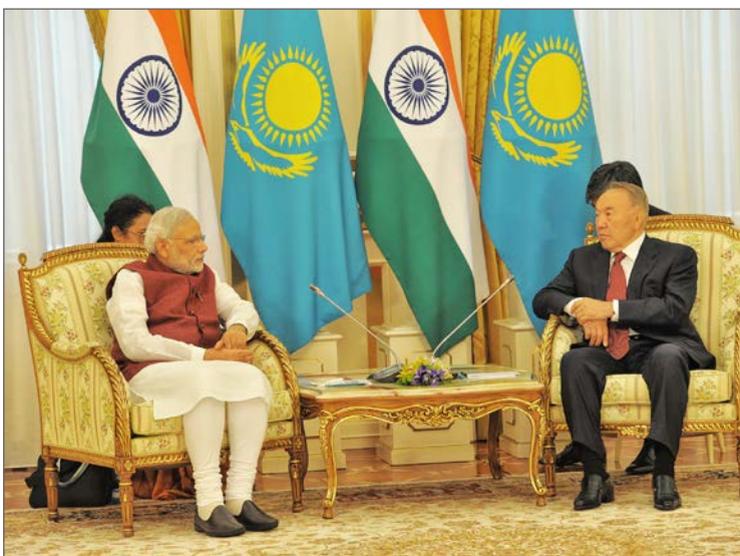




# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Republic of Kazakhstan

July 7-8, 2015

At the invitation of Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, paid an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan on July 7-8, 2015.



During the visit, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi met with President Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Massimov. The talks were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere in a spirit of mutual understanding, which traditionally characterise India-Kazakhstan relations.

President Nazarbayev and Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, noted the strategic partnership established during the State visit of President Nazarbayev to India in January 2009, based on mutually beneficial cooperation in various spheres and a shared desire for regional and international peace and stability.

Leaders of both countries agreed that the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, would serve to expand the strategic partnership for the benefit of people of

both countries.

Prime Minister, Modi, congratulated President Nazarbayev on his 75th birthday and noted the impressive all-round socio-economic development and progress achieved by Kazakhstan, as well as its important role in promoting regional and international peace and security.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi also congratulated the people of Kazakhstan on Astana Day, the 550th Anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate and the 20th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi underlined the growing political and economic role of Kazakhstan, which contributes to stability and development in the region.

Both Leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and underlined that the SCO platform would be a useful addition to ongoing bilateral and regional initiatives to expand cooperation.

The Leaders expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the official visit and shared the view that this visit has made a positive contribution towards expansion of the strategic partnership between the two countries. President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev expressed deep appreciation to Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for the visit which underlines the importance which India places on the development of its relations with Kazakhstan.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, expressed his gratitude to President Nazarbayev and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the warm hospitality extended during the visit.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, invited President Nazarbayev to visit India.

# BRICS RUSSIA 2015

## Seventh BRICS Summit -2015

Heads of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations on 9 July 2015 released the Ufa Declaration. The declaration was released after the 7th BRICS summit held in the Russian city of Ufa in Bashkortostan from July 8 -9, 2015.

7th BRICS Summit was held under the theme 'BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development'.

At the BRICS Summit, addressing the BRICS Business Council, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, stressed on the need for a stronger economic integration among the BRICS Nations. Prime Minister, Shri Modi held wide-ranging talks with other BRICS leaders and discussed upon ways to enhance cooperation and mitigate global challenges.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing the BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia, proposed a 10-point initiative.

Das Kadam: 10 steps for the future

1. BRICS Trade Fair
2. BRICS Railway Research Center
3. Cooperation Among Supreme Audit Institutions
4. BRICS Digital Initiative
5. BRICS Agricultural Research Center
6. BRICS State/Local Government's Forum
7. Cooperation Among Cities in field of Urbanization

8. BRICS Sports Council and Annual BRICS Sports Meet

9. First Major Project of NDB to be in the field of Clean Energy

10. BRICS Film Festival

Speaking at the Plenary Session of the BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Modi complemented BRICS Nations for their active support and participation during International Day of Yoga on 21st June. He stressed on combating terrorism collectively. Talking about climate change, Prime Minister, Modi said that it was one of the foremost global challenges. He called for focussing on renewable energy. Prime Minister also proposed for a BRICS Agriculture Research Centre to be set up.

Eurasian leaders were also present at the meeting between BRICS and SCO leaders. Prime Minister Modi said that Eurasia was filled with great energy and dynamism. He said the Eurasian region had the potential to become a leading economic corridor and trade route of the world. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi also complemented South African President Jacob Zuma for starting the 'Regional Outreach' at BRICS.

It was for the first time in history that an Indian Prime Minister attended the SCO Heads of State Council Plenary Session in preparation for joining as member state. Speaking at the occasion, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi expressed his part of content for acknowledging India as a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Prime Minister





Modi assured India's full cooperation to the SCO. He said that India, in the times to come, would deepen its engagement in human resource development, information communication and technology, pharmaceuticals and health, banking and capital markets, MSMEs, and food sectors.

**Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's meetings on the sidelines of BRICS and SCO Summits:**

Prime Minister, Modi held extensive meetings with other BRICS leaders. Shri Narendra Modi met with President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff and South African President Jacob Zuma.

Shri Narendra Modi also held talks with President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif and President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani.

The Summit of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), the important economies across the world, focus on discussions on enhancing cooperation in economic field, including the possibility of trade in local currency.

**7th BRICS Summit - Ufa declaration,**

With the BRICS Development Bank already set up, the Summit could look at the possibility of starting credit facility in local currency. The first head of the bank is noted Indian banker, Shri K V Kamath.

Leaders of BRICS countries have adopted the Ufa declaration, the final resultant document of the summit on July 9, 2016.

Following marathon rounds of talks, the five emerging powers signed a draft of inter-governmental agreements and the Ufa Communique.

The BRICS deliberations on the current global political and economic situation were reflected in the document.

The BRICS bloc noted the fragile recovery of global growth and also said they were “concerned about potential spillover effects from the unconventional monetary policies of the advanced economies”.

The United States refusal to ratify the IMF voting reforms remained a core concern, said the group.

“We remain deeply disappointed with the prolonged failure by the United States to ratify the IMF 2010 reform package, which continues to undermine the credibility, legitimacy and effectiveness of the IMF,” said the document.

BRICS accounted for over 17 percent of global trade, 13 percent of the global services market and 45 percent of the world’s agricultural output in 2014. The combined GDP (purchasing power parity) of the five BRICS countries surged from \$10 trillion in 2001 to \$32.5 trillion in 2014.

The Ufa declaration also asserted that “the NDB (New Development Bank” shall serve as a powerful instrument for financing infrastructure investment and sustainable development projects in the BRICS and other developing countries and emerging market economies”.

The BRICS Bank will approve its inaugural investment projects in the first quarter of 2016 and will work closely with the China-led AIIB. All the five BRICS countries are members of the AIIB.

“We welcome the proposal for the NDB to cooperate closely with existing and new financing mechanisms including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank,” said the document.

The Ufa declaration also makes references to the 70th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, “fascism” & “militarism” during World War II and denounces attempts to rewrite history but stops short of mentioning Japan.

“We express our commitment to resolutely reject the continued attempts to misrepresent the results of World War II. While remembering the scourge of war, we highlight that it is our common duty to build a future of peace and development,” said the communiqué.

China-Japan ties are at an all-time low owing to what China and South Korea say is Japan’s lack of remorse for its war-time atrocities.

China and Russia also said on July 9, 2015 that they support the UNSC aspirations of Brazil, South Africa and India.

The BRICS leaders vowed to work close with the UN to uphold international treaties, while criticizing the

adoption of “double standards”.

“We emphasize the need for universal adherence to principles and rules of international law in their interrelation and integrity, discarding the resort to “double standards” and avoiding placing interests of some countries above others,” said the document.

The BRICS countries have regularly criticized the interventionist foreign policy approach of Washington, including air strikes in Middle eastern countries, like Syria and Iraq.

In major succor for Russian President Putin, his BRICS counterparts continued to rally behind Moscow by opposing the Western sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine conflict.

“We condemn unilateral military interventions and economic sanctions in violation of international law and universally recognized norms of international relations. Bearing this in mind, we emphasize the unique importance of the indivisible nature of security, and that no State should strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others,” added the Ufa communiqué.

The bloc continued its stance on the two-state theory for the Palestine-Israel conflict. The BRICS called for East Jerusalem to be established as the capital of the state of Palestine and an end to Israeli settlement building.

“We oppose the continuous Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Territories, which violate international law and seriously undermine peace efforts,” said the document.

The Ufa communiqué also said the BRICS “strongly condemn human rights violations by all parties to the conflict” in Syria.

The BRICS also adopted an “Action Plan” that maps the 2016 trajectory of the group.

The Russia-proposed “Strategy of BRICS Economic Partnership”, a blueprint for the group’s trade, investment and commerce ties up to 2020.

Among other things, it will be aimed at increasing the competitiveness of BRICS countries in the global economy.

The five Foreign Ministries also signed an agreement on creating a joint BRICS website, which will act as a virtual secretariat of the group.

The Central Banks of the five countries have also signed cooperation agreements with the New Development Bank.

# Meeting of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Ufa, Russia

July 10, 2015

The Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India met on July 10, 2015, on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Ufa. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. The two leaders exchanged views on issues of bilateral and regional interest.

They agreed that India and Pakistan have a collective responsibility to ensure peace and promote development. To do so, they are prepared to discuss all outstanding issues.

Both leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to cooperate with each other to eliminate this menace from South Asia.

They also agreed on the following steps to be taken by the two sides:

A meeting in New Delhi between the two NSAs to discuss all issues connected to terrorism.

Early meetings of DG BSF and DG Pakistan Rangers followed by that of DGMOS.

Decision for release of fishermen in each other's custody, along with their boats, within a period of 15 days.

Mechanism for facilitating religious tourism.

Both sides agreed to discuss ways and means to expedite the Mumbai case trial, including additional information like providing voice samples.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reiterated his invitation to Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to visit Pakistan for the SAARC Summit in 2016.



ЗАСЕДАНИЕ СОВЕТА ГЛАВ ГОСУДАРСТВ-ЧЛЕНОВ  
ШАНХАЙСКОЙ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА  
上海合作组织成员国元首理事会会议

РОССИЯ УФА 2015  
2015年俄罗斯乌法



# Remarks by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, at Plenary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

July 10, 2015



President Putin, eminent leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and invited leaders,

I thank you for inviting India to the plenary session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

I bring the greetings and good wishes of 1.25 billion people of India.

I convey our deep sense of gratitude to the members of SCO for accepting India as a full member.

It reflects the natural links of history.

It will also promote peace and prosperity in this vast region that has often been called the pivot of human history.

It advances our shared vision to reconnect and integrate Eurasia's different region.

India's spiritual, cultural, political and economic links with the Central Eurasian region has existed since ancient times. And, it has enriched us both.

As the political landscape of the region changed at the turn of this century, India restored its historical ties of natural affinity with the Central Asian countries.

My current visit to all five Central Asian countries is a testimony to the importance that India attaches to the region.

India also has strong and deepening strategic partnership with China and Russia.

Our membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a natural extension of these relationships and mirrors the region's place in India's future.

Together with other countries present here, SCO could be a springboard for an integrated and connected Eurasia to become one of the most dynamic regions in the world.

For the past few centuries, we have all looked away from the centre of this great landmass, towards the sea and other regions. The time has come to reach out to each other across this region.

We have everything we need to succeed.

We are nearly two-fifths of the humanity. We are blessed with abundant natural resources, skills, markets and technology.

India has been actively participating in SCO activities that are open to Observers. We have deeply valued our association with SCO.

As we look forward, we would lend our support to improving transportation and communication networks in the region. We can create a vast network of physical and digital connectivity that extends from Eurasia's northern corner to Asia's southern shores. The International North South Transportation Corridor is a step in that direction.

India will be pleased to contribute to the development of infrastructure in the region.

We will support efforts to create an environment that eases barriers and facilitates trade and investments in the region.

India's requirement for energy and resources and its vast and dynamic market will boost prosperity in the SCO region.

In turn, India will deepen its engagement in human resource development, information and communication technology, pharmaceuticals and health care, banking and capital markets, small and medium enterprises and micro finance, and food security and agriculture.

The SCO region is characterised by rich diversity of cultures. Promoting deeper understanding and exchanges, especially among our youth, will promote greater unity in the region and beyond.

The ecology of our region is fragile; and, our natural heritage is truly beautiful. We will work together with SCO for sustainable development and combating climate change.

The future of prosperity rests on the foundation of peace.

India will contribute to advancing peace and friendship in the region.

We will work with SCO to combat terrorism and extremism that is a rising threat to the entire region. A stable and peaceful Afghanistan is a future that the Afghan people richly deserve, but it will also advance peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

In conclusion, Excellencies, I wish to say that India constitutes one-sixth of humanity, growing at 7.5% per year now. It is a land of extraordinary opportunities

for our neighbours. In turn, India own dreams can be fulfilled through partnership with neighbours. SCO is an important part of our vision. I assure you of India's full cooperation to SCO.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Pakistan on joining the SCO.

I wish this meeting all success. India will further its partnership with all partner countries in the region.

Thank you.

## Remarks by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at Plenary Session of the 7th BRICS Summit

July 09, 2015

Your Excellency President Vladimir Putin, Your Excellency President Dilma Rousseff, Your Excellency President Xi Jinping, Your Excellency President Jacob Zuma

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude once again to President Vladimir Putin for the warm welcome and commendable arrangement. We have this opportunity of visiting this beautiful region of Russia because of him.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the eminent leadership shown by President Rousseff last year. BRICS managed to reach new heights last year.

I would like to thank my BRICS partners for contributing in making 21st June, International Day of Yoga, a great success. This day was celebrated in more than 250 cities across 193 countries.

BRICS acts as a vital pillar of hope for this world full of political challenges, safety related challenges and economic challenges.

This is because BRICS work is not limited to just BRICS countries, but also towards the welfare of the world as a whole and especially for the developing nations.

Our discussions have been quite fruitful and we have discussed about various subjects during the first session and lunch.

The challenges faced by the world are same for all the countries. Therefore, it is imperative to have

consensus, collaboration and cooperation among all the big countries and all should follow the international rules and norms strictly.

We are meeting in the 70th year of United Nations. This year, the world has to take major or concrete decisions on the development and climatic change issues.

Any challenge, either in economic, social or political field, we will be more successful in solving them., when we will complete the reforms in United Nations Security Council on time. If this global organisation is meant to be beneficial in the 21st century, then it is absolutely necessary to complete its reforms at the earliest.

Peace and stability is the basis of social and financial development. For our own sake and for the sake of entire world, it is our responsibility to address the primary security challenges related to terrorism and militant issues and take effective action.

We have to work and fight together as one, instead of grouping ourselves in countries, and without differentiating among various sponsors and targeted countries. We have to do this at BRICS forum, at





United Nations and its Security Council and various other committees.

After 2015, we need to put forward Development Agenda for poverty alleviation as a main agenda before United Nations.

We must acknowledge the success of BRICS in economic field. Their success includes New Development Bank, Contingency Reserve Fund, Export Credit Insurance, Financing for Innovation and new proposals for Customs Cooperation and Reinsurance Pool.

BRICS Economic Cooperation Strategy is a milestone achieved in the BRICS development. This includes a number of political issues too. During Restricted Session, I had suggested the role of BRICS cooperation in Annual BRICS Trade fair, BRICS Railways Research Centre and Supreme Audit Institutions.

Climate Change is one of the major global issues, which we are facing presently. BRICS countries should establish Energy Efficiency Technologies programme to provide cheap renewable energy to the world. This is the only way to reach Clean Energy. I would like to have the first fund provided by New Development Bank, towards the Clean Energy project. It will be great if this can be done for all the five countries at one time.

By the end of this year, BRICS countries need to establish better coordination so that we can have a fruitful and ambitious agreement agreed to in Paris.

We can also focus on BRICS Digital Initiative by utilising our skills and provide new ideas to the developing countries. In the field of development, we can use Digital Technology and make our delivery of services more effective and enhance financial inclusion and empowerment.

Last year, I had spoken about focussing on youth. BRICS countries should in their own countries and in this progressive world need to focus on women empowerment too in their countries. Excellency's,

We had discussed about the migration issues. On one

hand migrations, owing to the world's demographic trends can primarily become a source in contributing to attaining global financial balance.

On the other hand, due to struggle and scarcity faced by the migrants, giving way to humanitarian issues. The United Nations needs to introspect deeply on this issue.

We would like to welcome Russia to initiate the first meeting on BRICS Standing Working Group on Migration to establish BRICS Heads of Migration Services.

Excellency's,

We are quite strong and well equipped in the field of agriculture and we are also at the top position in many fields across the world. I would like to propose to establish BRICS Agriculture Research Centre which will be a gift to the entire world.

In a similar way, we can work on creating a system wherein we can invest in augmenting production and infrastructure in agriculturally rich or land rich countries. We can send the extra production to less productive countries. This will be a significant next step.

Water scarcity is going to be a significant challenge in future. Availability of water, its better usage and drinking water are the prime challenges in developing countries. This is a field, where the countries having good experience and expertise can bring changes in other countries.

I would like to suggest that a Forum should be created which should connect the states and the local governments. They can learn a lot of things from each other. Urbanisation is a big challenge, but in the future, it will prove to be a great opportunity. We can initiate conversation and cooperation amongst cities and can learn a lot from each other.

Some BRICS members are Sports Powerhouses. We need to establish BRICS Sports Council and should conduct a yearly BRICS Sports Meet focussing on any one sport at a time. To begin with, we will be launching a Football Meet in India next year. This is a sport which is loved by all the BRICS countries.

Lastly, I would again, like to congratulate President Putin for this successful summit meeting. I believe that the determination and will power which I am witnessing among the BRICS members will surely take BRICS to reach newer heights and we will be contributing a lot more towards world's development.

Next year, I will take this opportunity to welcome you in India. I invite you to attend next BRICS meeting in India.



# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Turkmenistan

July 11, 2015

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Turkmenistan from July 10-11, 2015 at the invitation of the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

During the visit, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Shri Narendra Modi held extensive discussions with President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two Leaders expressed satisfaction at the continued development of bilateral relations based on deep-rooted civilizational, historical and cultural linkages and a shared interest in international as well as regional peace and stability.

The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely on issues discussed and agreed during their

official talks to ensure, through existing bilateral mechanisms and other means, concrete outcomes to forge a closer bilateral partnership in the days ahead.

The Leaders agreed that the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has helped consolidate and deepen the longstanding cordial relations between India and Turkmenistan, and in defining a framework for an enhanced mutually beneficial partnership between the countries.

Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Shri Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the Turkmen people for the warm welcome accorded to him. He invited the President of Turkmenistan to pay an official visit to the Republic of India at a convenient time. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Kyrgyz Republic

July 12, 2015

At the invitation of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Almazbek Atambaev, Prime Minister of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, paid an Official Visit to the Kyrgyz Republic from July 11- 12, 2015.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Almazbek Atambaev held profound exchange of views on strengthening bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest, in warm and friendly atmosphere.

Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of India highly appreciated significant achievements in different areas of cooperation over the past 24 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Keeping in view the shared cultural and historical linkages as well as the deep trust and mutual confidence between India and the Kyrgyz Republic, both nations felt that the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi marks a new beginning towards qualitatively enhancing the relationship between India and the Kyrgyz Republic and to strengthen friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries.

Two MoU were also signed for cooperation between the Election Commissions of the two countries and on cooperation in the sphere of Standards, a move that will help economic relations.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Kyrgyzstan.

The defence agreement signed is aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in Defence, Security, Military Education and Training.

It also envisages conduct of joint military exercises, exchange of experience and information, and exchange of military observers and instructors besides others.

At the conclusion of his visit, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi expressed his deep gratitude to President Almazbek Atambaev, the Government and the people of the Kyrgyz Republic for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended during his visit. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi invited President Almazbek Atambaev to visit India. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Republic of Tajikistan

July 12-13, 2015

The Prime Minister of India, His Excellency, Shri Narendra Modi paid a State visit to the Republic of Tajikistan from July 12 - 13, 2015 at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon.

The President and the Prime Minister held wide-ranging talks on bilateral, regional and international issues. The discussions between the Leaders were warm and cordial and the outcomes of the visit reflected the mutual trust that exists between the two countries.

President and Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the excellent relations between India and Tajikistan. They noted that ties between their countries are based on shared history and cultural affinities between their people. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to take all necessary steps to transform bilateral relations into a multi-faceted strategic partnership for the mutual benefit of the people of both their countries.

The Leaders stressed the importance of enhanced air connectivity between the two countries to facilitate trade and economic linkages as well as tourism and

greater people-to-people interactions. They called upon relevant authorities in both countries to find constructive ways and means to increase the frequency of flights on the Delhi-Dushanbe sector, including the provision of Fifth Freedom rights for carriers.

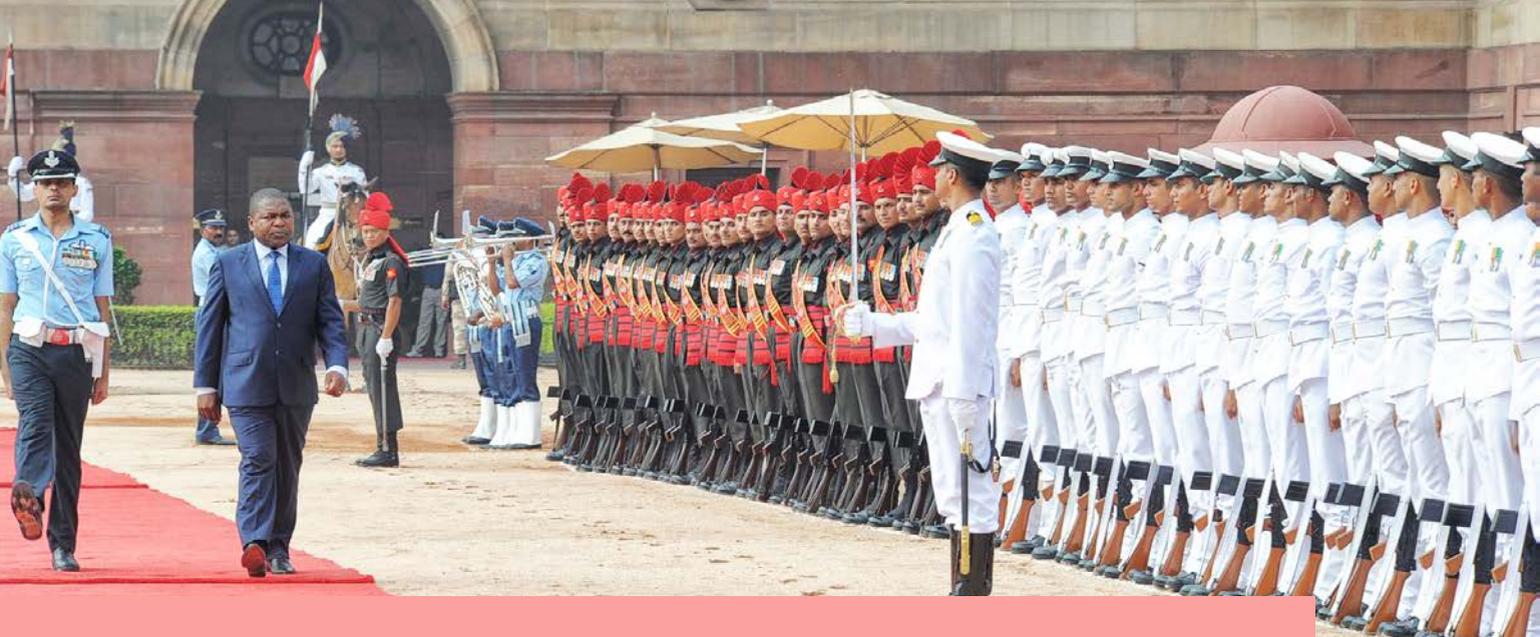
The two leaders welcomed continuing exchanges at Ministerial and senior official levels, which serve to cement bilateral ties. They noted the existing broad legal framework for development of cooperation between the two countries and called for an enhanced focus on implementation of outcomes envisaged under bilateral agreements/MoUs in various areas.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi thanked Tajikistan for support to India's membership to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The Leaders agreed to work together within the framework of SCO for Economic development, Security and stability of the region.

The Leaders emphasised that the outcomes and understandings reached during the visit undoubtedly mark a milestone in the development of a long-term strategic partnership between the two countries. The two leaders applauded the deep trust and confidence between the countries and underlined that the strategic partnership between India and Tajikistan is of mutual benefit to their two countries as well as for greater regional stability.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi expressed deep gratitude to President Rahmon for the warm welcome and the gracious hospitality extended during his visit to Tajikistan. Prime Minister extended an invitation to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to visit India at an early date. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.





# State visit of President of Mozambique to India

August 4-8, 2015

H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, accompanied by his spouse, Mrs. Isaura Nyusi, paid a State Visit to India from August 4-8, 2015. The President was also accompanied by a high-level delegation, including the Mozambican Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Minerals & Energy, Agriculture, Transportation & Communications and Interior, senior officials as well as a senior business delegation.

During the visit, President Nyusi called on Hon'ble President of India and met Hon'ble Vice-President of India. He held bilateral talks with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. President Nyusi and Mrs Nyusi also visited Ahmedabad for a day during their visit. President Nyusi is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, where he completed a short duration course in 2003. The President of Mozambique has earlier visited India in 2011 in his capacity as the Defence Minister of Mozambique.

India and Mozambique have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations anchored in shared political values of the struggle against colonialism, mutually beneficial cultural and commercial exchanges and extensive people to people contacts going back hundreds of years. India is a large trading and investment partner of Mozambique, with bilateral trade in 2014-15 reaching almost US\$ 2.4 billion. Indian investments in Mozambique are presently valued at over US\$ 7 billion primarily in the hydrocarbon and coal sectors. India is also an important destination for Mozambicans for higher education and high quality health care facilities.

There are more than 20,000 Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) living and working in Mozambique. In addition there are approximately 1500 to 2000 Indian expatriates working in Mozambique with different Indian public and private sector enterprises.





# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to the United Arab Emirates

August 17, 2015

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates from August 16-17, 2015 at the invitation of His Highness Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The visit of an Indian Prime Minister to UAE after 34 years marks the beginning of a new and comprehensive strategic partnership between India and UAE in a world of multiple transitions and changing opportunities and challenges.

In recent decades, UAE's economic progress has been one of the global success stories, transforming the nation into a regional leader and a thriving international centre that attracts people and business from across the world. India has emerged as one of the major world powers, contributing to the advancement of global peace and stability. India's rapid growth and modernization, along with its talented human resources and large markets, make it one of the anchors of the global economy. The dynamism of the two countries have translated into a rapidly expanding economic partnership, making India UAE's second largest trading partner; and UAE not only India's third largest trading partner, but also India's gateway to the region and beyond.

India and UAE share centuries-old ties of commerce, culture and kinship. Today, the Indian community of over 2.5 million is a major part of UAE's vibrant society and its economic success. It also makes a significant economic contribution to India and constitutes an indelible human bond of friendship between the two nations.

An extensive framework of agreements, including economic, defence, security, law enforcement, culture, consular and people-to-people contacts constitute solid bedrock for elevating bilateral cooperation across the full spectrum of our relationship.

Today, as India accelerates economic reforms and improves its investment and business environment, and UAE becomes an increasingly advanced and diversified economy, the two countries have the potential to build a transformative economic partnership, not only for sustained prosperity of their two countries, but to also advance progress in the region and help realise the vision of an Asian Century.

Yet, their common vision of progress and prosperity faces challenges from many shared threats to peace, stability and security in the region. A shared endeavour to address these challenges, based on common ideals and convergent interests, is vital for the future of the two countries and their region.

UAE is at the heart of the Gulf and West Asia region and its major economic hub. India, with seven million citizens in the Gulf, also has major energy, trade and investment interests in the region. The two nations also share a commitment to openness, peaceful coexistence and social harmony that are based on their cultural traditions, spiritual values and shared heritage. UAE is a shining example of a multi-cultural society. India is a nation of unparalleled diversity, religious pluralism and a composite culture.

The two nations reject extremism and any link between religion and terrorism. They condemn efforts, including by states, to use religion to justify, support and sponsor terrorism against other countries. They also deplore efforts by countries to give religious and sectarian colour to political issues and disputes, including in West and South Asia, and use terrorism to pursue their aims.

Proximity, history, cultural affinity, strong links between people, natural synergies, shared aspirations and common challenges create boundless potential for a natural strategic partnership between India and UAE. Yet, in the past, relations between the two



governments have not kept pace with the exponential growth in relations between their people or the promise of this partnership. However, the need for a close strategic partnership between UAE and India has never been stronger or more urgent, and its prospects more rewarding, than in these uncertain times.

On August 17, 2015, in Abu Dhabi, His Highness Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi agreed to seize this historic moment of opportunity and shared responsibility to chart a new course in their partnership for the 21st century. The leaders agreed on the following:

- Elevate the India-UAE relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.
- Coordinate efforts to counter radicalization and misuse of religion by groups and countries for inciting hatred, perpetrating and justifying terrorism or pursuing political aims. The two sides will facilitate regular exchanges of religious scholars and intellectuals and organise conferences and seminars to promote the values of peace, tolerance, inclusiveness and welfare that is inherent in all religions.
- Denounce and oppose terrorism in all forms and manifestations, wherever committed and by whomever, calling on all states to reject and abandon the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorism infrastructures where they exist, and bring perpetrators of terrorism to justice.
- Enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism operations, intelligence sharing and capacity building.
- Work together for the adoption of India's proposed Comprehensive convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations.
- Work together to control, regulate and share information on flow of funds that could have a bearing on radicalization activities and cooperate in interdicting illegal flows and take action against concerned individuals and organizations.
- Strengthen cooperation in law enforcement, anti-money laundering, drug trafficking, other transnational crimes, extradition arrangements, as well as police training.
- Promote cooperation in cyber security, including prevention on use of cyber for terrorism, radicalization and disturbing social harmony.
- Establish a dialogue between their National Security Advisors and National Security Councils. The National Security Advisors, together with other high level representatives for security from both nations, will meet every six months. The two sides will also establish points of contact between their security agencies to further improve operational cooperation.
- Cooperate to strengthen maritime security in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean region, which is vital for the security and prosperity of both countries.
- Promote collaboration and inter-operability for humanitarian assistance and evacuation in natural disasters and conflict situations.
- Strengthen defence relations, including through regular exercises and training of naval, air, land and Special Forces, and in coastal defence. India warmly welcomed UAE's decision to participate in International Fleet Review in India in February 2016.
- Cooperate in manufacture of defence equipment in India.
- Work together to promote peace, reconciliation, stability, inclusiveness and cooperation in the wider South Asia, Gulf and West Asia region.
- Support efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts and promote adherence to the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the conduct of relations between nations and settlement of disputes.
- Call on all nations to fully respect and sincerely implement their commitments to resolve disputes bilaterally and peacefully, without resorting to violence and terrorism.
- Establish a Strategic Security Dialogue between the two governments.
- Recognising that India is emerging as the new frontier of investment opportunities, especially with the new initiatives by the Government to facilitate trade and investment, encourage the investment institutions of UAE to raise their investments in India, including through



the establishment of UAE-India Infrastructure Investment Fund, with the aim of reaching a target of USD 75 billion to support investment in India's plans for rapid expansion of next generation infrastructure, especially in railways, ports, roads, airports and industrial corridors and parks.

- Facilitate participation of Indian companies in infrastructure development in UAE.
- Promote strategic partnership in the energy sector, including through UAE's participation in India in the development of strategic petroleum reserves, upstream and downstream petroleum sectors, and collaboration in third countries.
- Further promote trade between the two countries, and use their respective locations and infrastructure for expanding trade in the region and beyond; and, with the target of increasing trade by 60% in the next five years.
- Tap India's expertise in Small and Medium Enterprises to create a vibrant industrial base in UAE, which could also be of benefit to Indian enterprises.
- Strengthen cooperation between UAE's increasingly sophisticated educational institutions and India's universities and higher research institutions. Promote scientific collaboration, including in the areas of renewable energy, sustainable development, arid agriculture, desert ecology, urban development and advanced healthcare.
- Promote cooperation in Space, including in joint development and launch of satellites, ground-based infrastructure and space application. Prime Minister Shri Modi welcomed UAE's plan to set up the West Asia's first Space Research Centre at Al Ain and plans to launch a Mars Mission in 2021.
- Cooperate in peaceful uses of nuclear energy including in areas like safety, health, agriculture and science and technology.
- The 70th anniversary of the United Nations is an occasion to press for early reforms of the United Nations, and that the Inter-Governmental Negotiations on the reforms of the UN Security Council should be concluded expeditiously. Prime Minister thanked UAE for its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of a reformed United Nations Security Council.

reformed United Nations Security Council.

- The finalization of the post-2015 Development Agenda with elimination of poverty by 2030 as its core objective was a welcome development.
- The International Conference on Climate Change in Paris in December 2015 should produce an effective agreement, which includes provision of means and technologies to developing countries to transition to clean energy.
- The overwhelming global response to the International Day of Yoga was a reflection of global community's ability to come together to seek a peaceful, more balanced, healthier and sustainable future for the world. Prime Minister thanked UAE for its strong support to the International Day of Yoga on June 21 this year.
- India and UAE were shining examples of open and multicultural societies, which should work together to promote these values for a peaceful and inclusive global community. India and UAE will also enhance cultural and sports exchanges in each other's countries.
- People-to-people were at the heart of India-UAE relations and both governments will continue to nurture these relations and ensure the welfare of their citizens, especially the workers, in each other's country, as also work together to prevent human trafficking.

Prime Minister thanked His Highness the Crown Prince for his decision to allot land for construction of a temple in Abu Dhabi.

His Highness the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister resolved to maintain regular summits, high level ministerial dialogue and meetings of bilateral mechanisms to realize their vision of a strong comprehensive strategic partnership. They are confident that it would play a defining role in securing a future of sustained prosperity for their people and shaping the course of their region, and also contribute to a peaceful, stable, sustainable and prosperous Asia and the world.



# State Visit of President of Republic of Seychelles to India

August 25-27, 2015

His Excellency Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles, was on a State visit to India from 25-27 August 2015. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Transport, Mr. Joel Morgan and the Minister of Finance, Trade and Blue Economy, Mr. Jean-Paul Adam. A business delegation will also accompany the President.

The visit followed Prime Minister Shri Modi's landmark visit to Seychelles in March 2015, his first destination in the Indian Ocean region. President Michel had earlier paid State visits to India in 2005 and 2010, apart from participating in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summits in 2011 and 2012.

During his visit, President Michel held talks with the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, as well met with the Indian President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

The President addressed a business meeting of the the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (FICCI), with the participation of delegates of the Seychelles Investment Board and Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He also attended a special tourism promotion event organized by the Seychelles Tourism Board and Air Seychelles..

President Michel delivered an address on 'Maritime Security for Blue Economy' at the Indian Council for World Affairs in New Delhi. He also visited Mumbai where he met the Governor of Maharashtra and attende an event organised by Seychelles Tourism Board.

India and Seychelles have close and friendly relations. As maritime neighbours, our partnership is anchored in the need for peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. Development partnership, especially in the areas of capacity building and human resource development forms an important part of our engagement. The presence of a strong Indian community in Seychelles, comprising about 11% of the total population, is another significant link between our two countries.





## Visit of the His Excellency Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, to India

September 14-16, 2016

The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe paid a three day official visit to India from September 14-16, 2015. This was his first overseas trip after assuming charge as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister. He was received at the airport by Commerce Minister of India, Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe called on the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and held meetings with Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and other dignitaries during his visit. Several issues were discussed by the two countries and many agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoU's) were signed. He also had meetings with Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, Railways Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Coal and Power Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal, Road Transport and Highways Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari and Oil Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan during his visit.

India and Sri Lanka signed a bilateral agreement on orbit frequency coordination of satellite for South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding Indian grant assistance for implementation of small development projects (SDP) through local bodies, non-governmental organisations, charitable trusts and education and vocational institutions. Another Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed regarding supply of medical equipment to 200 bed ward complex at District General hospital Vavuniya. An agreement on exchange of letters on establishment of emergency ambulance services in Sri Lanka was also inked.

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe held discussions on the recently released report by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Sri Lanka with Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra

Modi. Discussions were also held regarding the issue of fisheries in the Palk strait and of fishermen that cross over into each other's maritime borders. The two countries also discussed strengthening of bilateral trade ties and cooperation in security and combating terrorism, trade and investment.

### Importance of the Visit

The visit of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe to India was important as this his first foreign visit since new Government was elected to power in September, 2015. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, had visited Sri Lanka in March 2015 and the President of Sri Lanka, Mathripala Sirisena had visited India in February 2015.





# Statement by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, during visit of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to India

September 15, 2015

Your Excellency Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe,  
Members of the media,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to you, Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe, and members of your delegation.

Let me congratulate you once again for leading the United National Front for Good Governance alliance to victory in last month's parliamentary elections.

We are deeply honoured that you have chosen India as your first overseas destination. It is a happy coincidence that your last full term as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister coincided with the first NDA Government.

We thank you for your belief in and steadfast support for India-Sri Lanka relations. You are deeply valued friend, whose vision for Sri Lanka's progress and commitment to its pursuit is greatly admired in India.

This is a historic year for India-Sri Lanka relations as it is for Sri Lanka. We had the honour of hosting President Sirisena on his maiden visit abroad in February. I had

the privilege of an extraordinary visit to Sri Lanka in March. Now, we have Prime Minister Wickramasinghe here.

Sri Lanka has voted twice this year for change, reforms, reconciliation and progress. There can be no stronger statement of Sri Lanka's democratic tradition. There can be no clearer sign of Sri Lanka's march towards a peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous future.

As a close neighbour and friend, we wish Sri Lanka every success; rejoice in your progress; and, assure you of India's unwavering support.

So, we are pleased that the Government of Sri Lanka has taken a number of significant steps in recent times. The leadership has shown remarkable political unity at a time of great hope.

I am confident that with the wisdom and will of the leadership in Sri Lanka and the support of the people, Sri Lanka will achieve genuine reconciliation and development, so that all Sri Lankans, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, can live a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity in a united Sri Lanka.





Your progress is important for our two countries, South Asia and our maritime region.

Prime Minister and I had excellent discussions today.

We welcomed some significant developments in bilateral relations since March, including the currency swap arrangement. We also expressed hope that progress on key bilateral initiatives and projects will gather speed now.

We both want deeper economic engagement. We would like to see our trade grow and become more balanced for Sri Lanka. We discussed how we can achieve these goals in a more open and competitive Indian market, including through bilateral arrangements for trade and investments.

I also sought his support for Indian investors, who are keen to participate in Sri Lanka's economic development, especially in infrastructure, energy and transport sectors.

I offered India's full support to strengthen connectivity between our two countries to deepen human and economic links that will benefit all sections of our societies.

I assured Prime Minister Wickremesinghe of continuing commitment to our development partnership - in infrastructure, railways, energy, community development projects, agriculture, capacity building, science and technology, space and civil nuclear field.

We will continue to nurture people-to-people ties. We just finished an absorbing test series. We shall all miss the great Kumar Sangakara on the cricket field.

We recognise our closely aligned security interests and the need to remain sensitive to each other's concerns. We both reaffirmed our commitment to deepen our defence and security cooperation.

We will intensify cooperation in combating terrorism and work together for security and stability in our maritime neighbourhood. Sri Lanka is our largest partner in defence training programme and we will continue to expand our cooperation in this area.

Prime Minister and I also discussed the fishermen issue. We agreed that fishermen's associations on both sides should continue their efforts to find a solution.

I conveyed to him that this should be seen as a humanitarian issue that affects livelihoods. I informed him of the steps we are taking to encourage Indian fishermen to take up deep sea fishing.

In conclusion, let me say that India and Sri Lanka have a huge stake in each other's success, and in stability and development in our region.

This is a relationship that touches the hearts of ordinary Indians and Sri Lankans. It is also of great strategic importance to our two countries. With President Sirisena and Prime Minister Wikremesinghe, we can look to the future with great optimism.



# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to USA

September 24, 2015



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi commenced his visit to the United States of America on September 24, 2015. After concluding the historic and memorable visit to Ireland, Shri Narendra Modi arrived at John F Kennedy airport in New York. This marked the beginning of second leg of his two-nation tour.

In New York, the first meeting was dedicated to business. Prime Minister, Shri Modi held a roundtable meeting with top American CEOs from the financial sector. Fruitful discussions were held in the roundtable and the Prime Minister urged the CEOs to invest in various sectors. He also outlined his vision for "Start-Up India, Stand-Up India." Shri Narendra Modi highlighted numerous steps being taken by Government to improve business environment in India which has in turn helped raise the FDI and investor confidence.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi held a second roundtable meeting on Media, Technology and Communications with CEOs of entertainment and media industries. The Prime Minister noted that current era was driven by technology. The CEOs were enthusiastic about the digital transformation that is taking place in India through the Digital India initiative. Addressing the media sector CEOs, he said that Government of India has been committed to protecting IPR which is essential to fostering creativity. He also spoke about Government's vision to connect 600,000 villages through broadband connectivity.

Prime Minister, Shri Modi held extensive talks with various leaders in New York City. He met PM Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh. Both the leaders expressed happiness at the progress of implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement. Discussions also



focused on connectivity, infrastructure, sustainable development goals, reform of the UN Security Council and other institutions of global governance.

Shri Modi held a meeting with PM of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Ralph Gonsalves. He thanked Dr. Gonsalves for the support extended by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines towards UNSC reform. The Prime Minister also met President David Arthur Granger of Guyana. President Granger also presented PM, Shri Narendra Modi copies of two monographs written by him. The President was appreciative of Indian support for capacity building in the IT sector in Guyana.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi also met heads of various business firms. Shri Modi attended a working dinner where major Fortune-500 CEOs were present. Prime Minister interacted with 42 American CEOs from the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. The Prime Minister highlighted his commitment for predictable, transparent and accountable governance. Discussions were held on investment opportunities in India. The Prime Minister made a strong pitch for 'Make in India', 'Skill India' and 'Smart Cities' initiatives.



# Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, meets President of United States, President of France, and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

September 28, 2015

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on September 28, 2015 met the President of the United States, Mr Barack Obama, in New York City. He also met the President of France, Mr. Francois Hollande; and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. David Cameron.

Four common themes that were discussed at the meetings were climate change, terrorism, India's desire for membership of the four export control regimes, and reform of the United Nations Security Council.

On climate change, the Prime Minister asserted that India's commitment is second to none. He said India had sought permission to announce its INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) on 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti, though the deadline is 1st October. The Prime Minister said that the emphasis should not be solely on emission caps, but

should also be on providing finance and technology for clean energy to the developing countries. He also spoke of his vision for India to produce 175 GigaWatts of renewable energy.

During his meeting with UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, the Prime Minister invited Britain to be a partner in the 'Make in India' programme.

During the meeting with the US President, both sides acknowledged the significant progress made in the relationship. They noted the recently concluded Strategic and Commercial Dialogue, and discussions on Energy and Cyber-Security. They noted that they were meeting on a day when four American satellites had been launched by ISRO. The Prime Minister spoke of his visit to California, the renewable energy dialogue and the Start-Up Konnect event at San Jose.



# Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's statement at the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda

September 25, 2015

Excellencies,

Mahatma Gandhi had once said, "One must care about the world one will not see". Indeed, humanity has progressed when it has collectively risen to its obligation to the world and responsibility to the future. Seventy years after the end of a tragic war and birth of a new hope for our age, we are meeting to chart a course for our humanity and our planet. I consider this a very important summit and thank UN Secretary General for organizing it.

Just as our vision behind the Agenda 2030 is lofty, our goals are comprehensive. It gives priority to the problems that have endured through the past decades. And, it reflects our evolving understanding of the social, economic and environmental linkages that define our lives.

We live in an age of unprecedented prosperity, but also unspeakable deprivation around the world.

I am pleased that elimination of poverty in all forms everywhere is at the top of our goals. Addressing the needs of 1.3 billion poor people in the world is not merely a question of their survival and dignity or our moral responsibility. It is a vital necessity for ensuring peaceful, sustainable and just world.

A great Indian thinker, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, placed the welfare of the poorest at the centre of his thoughts. This is what we also see in the 2030 Agenda. It is a happy coincidence that we are beginning the celebration of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay's 100th anniversary today.

The goals recognize that economic growth,

industrialization, infrastructure, and access to energy provide the foundations of development.

We welcome the prominence given to environmental goals, especially climate change and sustainable consumption. The distinct goal on ocean ecosystem reflects the unique character of its challenges and opportunities. Equally important, it focuses our attention on the future of the island states. I speak about Blue Revolution, which includes the prosperity, sustainable use of marine wealth and blue skies.

Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since Independence, we have pursued the dream of eliminating poverty from India. We have chosen the path of removing poverty by empowering the poor. We have placed priority on education and skill development.

Our attack on poverty today includes expanded conventional schemes of development, but we have also launched a new era of inclusion and empowerment, turning distant dreams into immediate possibilities: new bank accounts for 180 million; direct transfer of benefits; funds to the unbanked; insurance within the reach of all; and, pension for everyone's sunset years.

The world speaks of private sector and public sector. In India, we have defined a new personal sector of individual enterprise, micro enterprises and micro finance, drawing also on the strength of digital and mobile applications.

We are focusing on the basics: housing, power, water and sanitation for all – important not just for welfare, but also human dignity. These are goals with a definite date, not just a mirage of hope. Our development is intrinsically linked to empowerment of women and it begins with a massive programme on educating the girl child that has become every family's mission.

We are making our farms more productive and better connected to markets; and, farmers less vulnerable to the whims of nature.

We are reviving our manufacturing, improving our services sector, investing on an unprecedented scale in infrastructure; and, making our cities smart, sustainable and engines of progress.

We are committed to a sustainable path to prosperity. It comes from the natural instinct of our tradition and culture. But, it is also rooted firmly in our commitment to the future.

We represent a culture that calls our planet Mother Earth.

As our ancient text say: "Keep pure! For the Earth is our mother! And we are her children!"

Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful: new capacity of 175 GW of renewable energy over the next seven years; energy efficiency; a tax on coal; a huge afforestation programme; reforming our transportation; and, cleaning up our cities and rivers. The energy intensity of our growth will continue to decline.

Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet. It will be a world of fewer challenges and greater hope; and, more confident of its success.

Our success will give us more resources to share with our friends. As India's ancient saying goes, the wise look at the world as one family.

Today, India is fulfilling its responsibilities as development partners in Asia and Africa and with small island states from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

Nations have a national responsibility for sustainable development. They also need policy space.

However, we are here today in the United Nations because we all believe that international partnership must be at the centre of our efforts, whether it is development or combating climate change.

And, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is the bedrock of our collective enterprise.

When we speak only of climate change, there is a

perception of our desire to secure the comforts of our lifestyle. When we speak of climate justice, we demonstrate our sensitivity and resolve to secure the future of the poor from the perils of natural disasters.

In addressing climate change, it is important to focus on solutions that can help us reach our goals. We should forge a global public partnership to harness technology, innovation and finance to put affordable clean and renewable energy within the reach of all.

Equally, we must look for changes in our lifestyles that would make us less dependent on energy and more sustainable in our consumption.

It is equally critical to launch a global education programme that prepares our next generation to protect and conserve Nature.

I hope that the Developed World will fulfil its financing commitments for development and climate change, without in any way putting both under the same head!

I also hope that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism will turn technology and innovation into an effective instrument for global public good, not just private returns.

As we see now, distance is no insulation from challenges. And, they can rise from the shadows of conflict and privations from distant lands.

So, we must transform international partnerships on the strength of solidarity with fellow human beings and also our enlightened self-interest.

And, we must also reform the United Nations, including its Security Council, so that it carries greater credibility and legitimacy and will be more representative and effective in achieving our goals.

There is no cause greater than shaping a world, in which every life that enters it can look to a future of security, opportunity and dignity; and, where we leave our environment in better shape for the next generation. And, no cause that is more challenging.

At 70, we are called to rise to that challenge, with our wisdom, experience, generosity, compassion, skills and technology.

I am confident that we can.

In the end, let me express my hope for everyone's well with a few lines from our ancient texts:

May all be happy, may all be healthy, may all see welfare, may no one have any sorrow.

Thank you.



# India's commitment to UN Peacekeeping remains strong and will grow:

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at the Summit on Peace Operations  
September 28, 2015

President Barack Obama, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Excellencies,

The foundations of the United Nations were laid by the brave soldiers on the battlefields of Second World War. By 1945, they included 2.5 million men of the Indian Army, the largest volunteer force in history. More than 24000 lost their lives and nearly half of that went missing.

The legacy of that sacrifice is shared by three countries present here. They remain today among the largest contributors to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

Over 180,000 Indian troops have participated in UN peacekeeping missions - more than from any other country. India has participated in 48 of the 69 UN peacekeeping missions so far. 161 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN missions.

India was the first country to contribute a Female Formed Police Unit to UN Mission in Liberia.

India has been providing training to peacekeeping officers from a large number of countries. Till date, we have trained nearly 800 officers from 82 countries.

I thank President Obama for hosting this Summit on Peacekeeping. It is timely not just because of the 70th anniversary of the organization. It is also because the security environment is changing, the demands on peacekeeping are growing and the resources are harder to find.

Today's peacekeepers are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also address a range of complex challenges.

Mandates are ambitious; but, resources are often inadequate. Mandates sometimes make peacekeepers party to conflicts, putting at risk their lives and success of their missions.

The problems arise to a large extent because Troop Contributing Countries do not have a role in the decision-making process. They do not have adequate representation in senior management and as Force Commanders.

Peacekeeping missions should be deployed prudently, with full recognition of their limitations and in support of political solutions. We are pleased that the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations has recognized these issues. We thank UN Secretary General for his prompt report on the Panel's recommendations. We look forward to their early consideration.

India's commitment to UN Peacekeeping remains strong and will grow.

We have announced new intended contributions that to the UN Peacekeeping Operations.

These include additional battalion of up to 850 troops in existing or new operations; additional 03 Police units with higher representation of female peacekeepers; commitment to provide critical enablers; deployment of technical personnel in UN missions; and, additional training for peacekeepers at our facilities in India and in the field.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasise that the success of UN peacekeeping ultimately depends not on the weapons that the soldiers carry, but on the moral force that decisions of the UN Security Council command.

We must complete the long-pending task of reforms within a fixed time frame of the UN Security Council to preserve the relevance and effectiveness of the UN.

I would like to pay homage to the peacekeepers who have laid down their lives in defending the highest ideals of the United Nations. It would be most fitting if the proposed memorial wall to the fallen peacekeepers is created quickly. India stands ready to contribute, including financially, to this objective.

# Joint Press Statement at the Meeting of Leaders of the G-4 countries - Brazil, Germany, India and Japan - on United Nations Security Council Reform

September 26, 2015



H.E., Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, invited H.E. Ms. Dilma Rousseff, President of Brazil, H.E. Ms. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany and H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, for a G-4 meeting in New York.

The G-4 leaders stressed that a more representative, legitimate and effective Security Council is needed more than ever to address the global conflicts and crises, which had spiraled in recent years. They shared the view that this can be achieved by reflecting the realities of the international community in the 21st century, where more Member States have the capacity and willingness to take on major responsibilities with regard to maintenance of international peace and security.

In this context, the leaders noted with concern that no substantial progress had been made since the 2005 World Summit where all the Heads of State and Government had unanimously supported the "early reform" of the Security Council as an essential element of the overall effort to reform the United Nations. They strongly emphasized that the process underway in the UN to bring about the reform of the Security Council should be conducted, given its urgency, in a fixed time frame.

The leaders paid tribute to the dynamic leadership of the President of the 69th General Assembly and the efforts of the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) in moving the IGN process towards text-based negotiations. They welcomed the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Decision 69/560 to use the text presented by the President of the 69th General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015 as the basis for negotiations within the IGN. They also pledged to support and cooperate with the President of the 70th General Assembly.

The leaders also noted with appreciation the efforts of Member States in moving towards text-based negotiations. They welcomed, in particular, the efforts

undertaken by the Member States of the African Group, CARICOM and the L.69 Group. They supported Africa's representation in both the permanent and non-permanent membership in the Security Council. They also noted the importance of adequate and continuing representation of small and medium sized Member States, including the Small Island Developing States, in an expanded and reformed Council.

The leaders emphasized that the G-4 countries are legitimate candidates for permanent membership in an expanded and reformed Council and supported each other's candidature. They also reaffirmed their resolve to continue contributing to the fulfillment of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. They pledged to work together with all Member States and to accelerate outreach towards achieving an early and meaningful reform of the Security Council. They expressed determination to redouble their efforts towards securing concrete outcomes during the 70th session of the General Assembly.



The Honorable Prime Minister of India  
**SHRI NARENDRA MODI**  
September 26, 2015, San Jose, CA



# Facebook, Silicon Valley, like Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

September 28, 2015 - Jessica Guynn, USA TODAY

On Facebook's campus September 27, 2015, two of the world's most powerful men used the high-tech company's pulpit to promote a mutually beneficial platform: the growing power and influence of social media and the future of the digital economy in India.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Facebook founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg were given a warm reception. The friendly crowd of about 1,000, many of them Indian immigrants and Silicon Valley workers support Shri Modi's "Digital India" initiatives which call for more high-speed Internet access and tech jobs to raise the standard of living in a country where so many still live in poverty.

"We are an \$8 trillion economy today. My dream is to become a \$20 trillion dollar economy," Shri Modi said during his 50-minute appearance at Facebook alongside Zuckerberg.

Shri Modi and Mr. Zuckerberg had a one-on-one meeting before the event, yet more evidence of the deepening ties between India and Silicon Valley and of their increasingly entwined fortunes.

Facebook is wooing Shri Modi as it looks to expand in the potentially lucrative Indian market. Facebook has launched an effort to connect Indians to the Internet through Internet.org, but that has met with resistance from some in India who say the project unfairly favors the giant social network and other services.

Shri Modi's two-day swing through Silicon Valley — the first time an Indian head of state has been in California in 33 years — has commanded the attention of top tech CEOs. Shri Modi met with Google's Sundar Pichai and Apple's Tim Cook, among others, to seek stronger ties and investment in India.

Silicon Valley has been only too happy to host Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. India is the



world's fastest-growing major economy, representing a potentially lucrative opportunity for U.S. companies as smartphone and Internet access begins to spread.

The visit has also brought out Shri Modi's critics, some of whom protested outside Facebook's headquarters. Critics say Shri Modi's digital push could impinge on the privacy and the rights of Indians, others allege his government suppresses dissent and religious freedom.

The Facebook event was carefully scripted and the audience handpicked. The PA system played Bollywood songs and the crowd of Facebook employees and invited guests chanted "Modi! Modi!" Modi addressed the audience in Hindi. The town hall-style event was aired live on Indian television.

Zuckerberg opened the town hall recalling how he visited India, especially a temple there, on the advice of one of his mentors, the late Steve Jobs who had sought inspiration in the country. "This was early in

our history," Zuckerberg recalled. Facebook had hit a rough patch and Zuckerberg was fielding offers to sell the company.

"(Jobs) told me that in order to reconnect to what I believed was the mission of the company, I should visit this temple that he had gone to in India early on in his evolution of what he wanted Apple to be," Zuckerberg recalled.

In India, Zuckerberg says he witnessed the power of millions connecting online. Shri Modi was visibly delighted that India played a role in the early history of Facebook, saying the "daily bonding" with the Indian people on social media has helped bridge the gap between the government and its citizens, swaying policy and diplomacy and keeping officials on their toes.

Social media allows people to constantly vote, Shri Modi told the crowd. "We used to have elections every five years. Now we have them every five minutes," he said.

Shri Modi is the world's second most popular elected leader on social media after President Obama with more than 15 million Twitter followers and more than 30 million Facebook likes.

"It's fitting," Zuckerberg said, that the leader of the world's largest democracy is setting the example of how governments should connect with their citizens.

Shri Modi touched on several topics, pitching his "Digital India" agenda and vowing to improve education for girls and open up more opportunities for women.

"If we want to achieve our economic goals, then we cannot do that if we imprison 50% of our population inside our homes," he said.

At Zuckerberg's prompting, Shri Modi who grew up poor recounted in an emotional, halting voice the sacrifices his mother, now in her nineties, made to raise her children. He also recalled selling tea in railway stations to help his family make ends meet.

"It's hard to imagine that a tea seller has become the leader of the world's largest democracy," Shri Modi said.

In honor of Shri Modi's visit, Zuckerberg changed his profile image to "Support Digital India."

After Facebook, Shri Modi paid a visit to Google's Mountain View, Calif., headquarters where Pichai showed him demos of Google technology such as Street View and Google Earth. Shri Modi also secured a pledge from Google to provide Wi-Fi in hundreds of Indian railway stations.

Other tech companies answered Shri Modi's call for investment in India. Shri Modi dined on Saturday night with a who's who of tech CEOs including Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Uber's Travis Kalanick and Cisco's John Chambers. Nadella pledged Microsoft would help India bring wireless Internet to hundreds of thousands of villages. Chip maker Qualcomm promised \$150 million to fund Indian start-ups.

Also on Saturday Modi visited with Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk and rode around the Fremont, Calif., facility in a battery-powered cart and he met with Apple's Cook.

## Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi meets President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena.

September 26, 2015



Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi met President Maithripala Sirisena in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly where they discussed about the reconciliation process and Indian investment in various projects in Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister Shri Modi complimented President Sirisena for the two elections that were successfully conducted in Sri Lanka, saying that this showed the deep-rooted democratic traditions of that country.



# Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Ireland

September 23, 2015

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to Ireland on September 23. During his visit the Prime Minister held discussions with Prime Minister Enda Kenny of Ireland. The Irish Prime Minister hosted a Working Lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the two leaders to review bilateral relations between the two countries as well as to discuss regional and global matters of mutual interest.

India and Ireland have traditionally had cordial and friendly relations going back to the time of our freedom movement. This visit provided an excellent opportunity to bolster economic relations between the two countries as there are clear complementarities between our flagship programmes, in particular Skill India and Digital India programmes and Ireland's proven educational institutions. Information technology, smart

agriculture and food processing industry provide other areas for closer cooperation for mutual advantage.

The visit also provided an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss global issues particularly in the context of the upcoming UN session which both Prime Ministers attended. India and Ireland will explore possibilities of working together in the multilateral fora on global challenges including climate change, poverty alleviation, sustainable development goals, environment and disarmament.

Ireland also has a 26,000 strong Indian Community. Engagement with the diaspora provides another commonality between India and Ireland, which has a 70 million strong diaspora spread across the world.

The Prime Minister will depart from Dublin for New York the same day.



# President Shri Pranab Mukherjee Addresses the Nation on Eve of 69th Independence Day: Full Text

August 14, 2015

On the eve of 68th 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 sportspersons who have participated and won laurels in various tournaments in India and abroad. My congratulations to Shri Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize winner for 2014, who has done the country proud.

On 15th August 1947, we won political freedom. The birth of modern India was a moment of historic exhilaration; but it was also tinged with the blood of unimaginable suffering along the length and breadth of our country. The ideals and convictions, that had held through the travails of an epic struggle against British rule, were under strain.

A great generation of supreme heroes faced this formidable challenge. The sagacity and maturity of that generation saved our ideals from deviation or degeneration under the pressure of emotion, including rage. India's pride, self-esteem and self-respect, born from a civilizational wisdom which inspired the renaissance that won us freedom, was distilled into the principles of our constitution by these extraordinary men and women. We have been blessed by a constitution that launched India's march towards greatness.

The most precious gift of this document was democracy, which reshaped our ancient values into a modern context and institutionalized multiple freedoms. It turned liberty into a living opportunity for the oppressed and impoverished, offered equality and positive discrimination to the many millions, who had suffered social injustice, and instituted a gender revolution that has made our country an example of progress. We abolished archaic customs and laws, and ensured change for women through education and jobs. Our institutions are the infrastructure of this idealism.

The finest inheritance needs constant care for preservation. Our institutions of democracy are under stress. The Parliament has been converted into an arena of combat rather than debate. It is time to recall what

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, said while making his closing speech in the Constituent Assembly in November 1949 and I quote:

"The working of a constitution does not depend wholly upon the nature of the constitution. The constitution can



provide only the organs of state, such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs of the state depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics. Who can say how the people of India and their parties will behave?" (unquote)

If the institutions of democracy are under pressure, it is time for serious thinking by the people and their parties. The correctives must come from within.

Our country's rise will be measured by the strength of our values, but it will equally be determined by economic growth and equitable distribution of the nation's resources. Our economy promises much hope for the future. The new chapters of the 'India Story' are waiting to be written. 'Economic reforms' is a work-in-progress. Our performance over the last decade has been commendable; and it is most heartening that after a dip, we have recovered to 7.3% growth in 2014-15. But the benefits of growth must reach the poorest of the poor much before they land in the bank accounts of the richest of the rich. We are an inclusive democracy, and an inclusive economy; there is place for everyone in the hierarchy of wealth. But the first call goes to those who suffer on the brink of deprivation. Our policies must be geared to meet the 'Zero Hunger' challenge in a foreseeable future.

The symbiotic relationship between man and nature has to be preserved. A generous nature when violated can turn into a destructive force leading to calamities resulting in huge loss of life and property. Even as I speak, large parts of the nation are barely recovering from floods. We need immediate relief for the afflicted as well as long-term solutions for the management of both, water deficiency and excess.

A nation which forgets the idealism of its past loses something vital from its future. Our educational institutions multiply as the aspirations of generations continue to exceed supply. But what has happened to quality, from base to apex? We recall the guru-shishya parampara with legitimate pride; why then have we abandoned the care, devotion and commitment that is at the heart of this relationship? A guru much like the soft and skilful hands of a potter, moulds the destiny of shishya. The student with devotion and humility acknowledges the debt of the teacher. Society respects and recognizes the merit and scholarship of the teacher. Is that happening in our education system today? Students, teachers and

authorities must pause and introspect.

Our democracy is creative because it is plural, but diversity must be nourished with tolerance and patience. Vested interests chip away at social harmony, in an attempt to erode many centuries of secularism. In an age of instant communication through ever-improving technology, we must remain vigilant to ensure that the devious designs of a few never overcome the essential oneness of our people. For both government and people the rule of law is sacrosanct, but society is also protected by something greater than law: humanity. Mahatma Gandhi said and I quote: "You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty" (unquote).

Friends:

Peace, friendship and cooperation bind nations and peoples together. Recognizing the shared destiny of the Indian sub-continent, we must strengthen connectivity, expand institutional capacity and enhance mutual trust to further regional cooperation. As we make progress in advancing our interests globally, India is also engaged in pro-actively promoting goodwill and prosperity in our immediate neighbourhood. It is heartening that the long pending land boundary issue with Bangladesh has been finally resolved.

While we offer our hand willingly in friendship, we cannot stay blind to deliberate acts of provocation and a deteriorating security environment. India is a target of vicious terrorist groups operating from across the borders. Except the language of violence and the cult of evil, these terrorists have no religion and adhere to no ideology. Our neighbours must ensure that their territory is not used by forces inimical to India. Our policy will remain one of

zero tolerance for terrorism. We reject any attempt to use terrorism as an instrument of state policy. Infiltration into our territory and attempts to create mayhem will be dealt with a strong hand.

I pay homage to the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives defending India. I salute the courage and heroism of our security forces who are maintaining an eternal vigil to safeguard the territorial integrity of our country and the safety of our people. I also specially commend the brave civilians who boldly detained a hardened terrorist ignoring the risk to their own lives.

India is a complex country of 1.3 billion people, 122 languages, 1600 dialects and 7 religions. Its strength lies in its unique capacity to blend apparent contradictions into positive affirmations. In the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, it is a country held together and I quote: "by strong but invisible threads..... About her there is the elusive quality of a legend of long ago; some enchantment seems to have held her mind. She is a myth and an idea, a dream and a vision, and yet very real and present and pervasive" (unquote).

On the fertile ground laid by our Constitution, India has blossomed into a vibrant democracy. The roots are deep but the leaves are beginning to wilt. It is time for renewal.

If we do not act now, will our successors seven decades hence remember us with the respect and admiration we have for those who shaped the Indian dream in 1947? The answer may not be comfortable, but the question has to be asked.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!

# Google Celebrates India's 69th Independence Day

August 15, 2015

NEW DELHI: In continuance to its tradition of making exclusive doodles, Google India is celebrating country's 69th Independence Day by paying tribute to the famous Dandi March on its homepage.

The tableau representing Mahatma Gandhi along with a group of followers features one of the most important chapters of India's freedom history.

Mahatma Gandhi also called the 'Father of the Nation' undertook Dandi March on 12 March 1930 as a non violent protest against British India's suppressing tax regime and salt monopoly, paving way for Civil Disobedience Movement.



The movement led to the declaration of Poorna Swaraj or Complete Independence by the Indian National Congress (INC) on 26th January 1930.

Mahatma Gandhi led this 24-days and 390 km march from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to the coastal village of Dandi in Navsari town of Ahmedabad, breaking the salt law on 6 April 1930.

The campaign witnessed thousands of supporters within a few days, bringing about a change in British India's attitude towards India's freedom struggle.

# Text of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address to the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 69th Independence Day

August 15, 2015

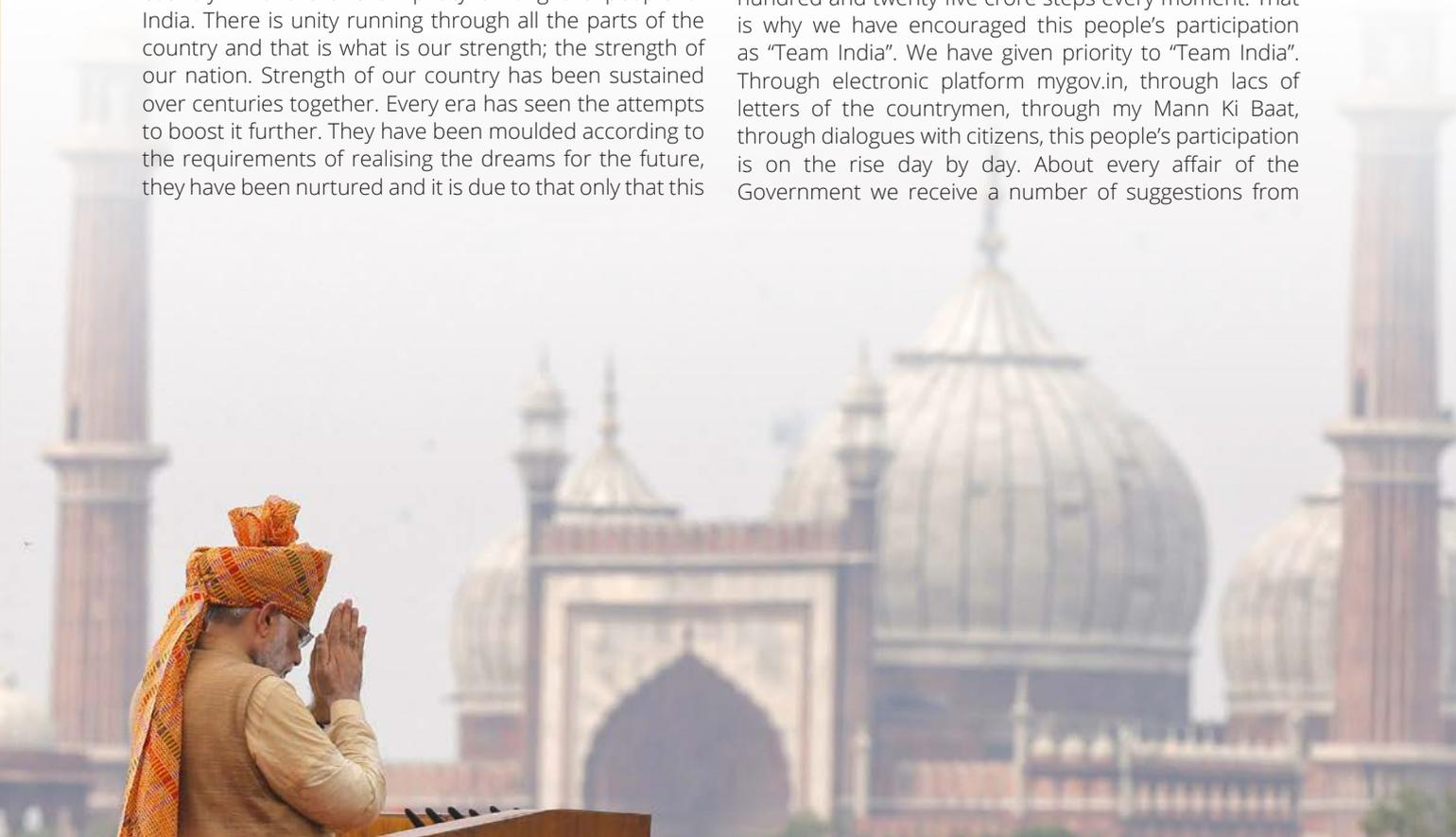
My best wishes and heartiest greetings on the occasion of this sacred festival of our Freedom. This morning of the 15th of August is not a usual morning. This is the dawn of the freedom-festival of the greatest democracy of the world. This dawn is also the dawn of the dreams of the one hundred twenty five Crore Indian Citizens. This dawn also heralds the resolve of 125 Crore people of India. On this pious occasion I also extend my many many salutations to all those great persons of India who sacrificed their lives and led a life of penance while making persistent efforts to fight for the honour of the country. They even spent their youth in the prison, went through all kinds of sufferings; but never gave up their dreams and resolve to see India free.

Recently many distinguished citizens of India, youths, literary artists and social workers- sons and daughters of Mother India- have achieved many great feats to make our country proud. They are countless in number and from the ramparts of Red fort I extend my best wishes and greetings to all of them from the core of my heart.

The vastness and the diversity of India is always talked about, but Our India has many other great characteristics as well, there is a lot of diversity in India. India is a large country. And there is simplicity among the people of India. There is unity running through all the parts of the country and that is what is our strength; the strength of our nation. Strength of our country has been sustained over centuries together. Every era has seen the attempts to boost it further. They have been moulded according to the requirements of realising the dreams for the future, they have been nurtured and it is due to that only that this

country has reached this far with our age old traditions and ever new resolves. Our unity, simplicity, fraternity, harmony are our biggest strength. This strength should never be blemished, it should never be hit. If the unity of the country gets disturbed, the dreams also get shattered, therefore, whether it is the poison of casteism, communal fanaticism, we don't have to allow it in any form whatsoever, not allow it to take root, and then we have to cure the poison of casteism, the fanaticism of communalism with the nectar of development, distribute the flow of the nectar of development and through the flow of this nectar attempt bringing about a new awareness.

Dear brothers and sisters, this country is moving ahead because of the "Team India" and this "Team India" is a big team of our one twenty five crore countrymen. The world might never have thought about the team of one twenty five crore citizens working as a team together as to how they take the nation to new heights, build the nation and also protect it! So, whatever we are doing and wherever we are trying to reach, it is all because of the "Team India" and we are grateful to this "Team India". People's participation is the biggest strength of democracy. If we run the country through the participation of One Hundred and twenty five crore Indians, our country will be moving ahead one hundred and twenty five crore steps every moment. That is why we have encouraged this people's participation as "Team India". We have given priority to "Team India". Through electronic platform mygov.in, through lacs of letters of the countrymen, through my Mann Ki Baat, through dialogues with citizens, this people's participation is on the rise day by day. About every affair of the Government we receive a number of suggestions from





the far flung villages of our country and this is the real strength of our "Team India".

My dear fellow citizens, this is a fact that there is only one mandate of this "Team India" and that is all our schemes, all our systems should benefit the poor of the country. We should support the poor in their fight against poverty and empower them in this arduous effort of theirs because no one wants to remain poor and they also wish to get rid of poverty. Hence the meaningfulness of our resources, our schemes and our programmes is in their usefulness to the cause of welfare of the poor.

Brothers and sisters, last year on the occasion of 15th of August, I had expressed some of my views before you. At that time I was new, whatever I saw in the government, I expressed them with an open mind before one hundred and twenty five crore citizens. Today after one year, standing under the Tricolor from the same ramparts of the Red Fort, I assure the countrymen that in this period of one year our "Team India", consisting of one hundred

and twenty five crore people, is committed to realize our dreams within the timeframe with new hope, new energy and utmost hard work. An atmosphere of trust has emerged. I had announced 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna' on the last 15th of August. Even after sixty years of independence; even when the banks were nationalized for the poor, 40% people of the country were without a bank account till the last 15th of August; the doors of the banks were not open for the poor. We resolved that we would erase this blot and would provide a solid base to the financial inclusion which is talked about the world over, by integrating the poorest of the poor to the mainstream economic activities; and this is only the beginning. We had decided that unlike the previous work culture of talking in terms of uncertain time frames, we will complete the work by the 26th of January as the country celebrates the next Republic Day.

My countrymen, today I can proudly say that we achieved that target within the time frame. 17 Crore people opened their bank accounts under 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna'. With a view to extend opportunities to the poor, we had said that these bank accounts could be opened with zero balance. We had even said that we would bear the operational costs of the bank. After all, what for the banks exist? They should be for the poor and that's why we had decided to open accounts with zero balance. We have seen the rich of our country; however, this time around we have also seen our poor and seen their wealth. From the ramparts of the Red Fort, let me salute and bow to the large-heartedness of these poor; because even if there was a provision of opening the account with zero balance, these poor people have deposited twenty thousand crore rupees in their bank accounts. It could be possible only due to richness of our poor citizens. And hence, today my conviction bears proof that it is all because of the spirit of these poor that this "Team India" will march ahead.

Brothers and sisters, if the branch of a bank is opened or a building of the bank is constructed in a certain part of our country, it becomes the hot topic of discussion, people rejoice, it is hailed as a mark of great development and remarkable progress. This is so because in the past 60 years, we have measured the development of the country only on the basis of these parameters. This has been the yardstick that if any branch of a bank is opened somewhere, it elicits lots of accolades and praises, the Government receives much adulation, but my dear fellow citizens, it is not a challenging task to open a branch of a bank. This task can easily be accomplished through the Government exchequer, but to bring 17 crore countrymen to the doorstep of the bank is an arduous task, it takes a lot of hard work, you have to give your heart and soul to accomplish this task, you are required to be ever vigilant. And here I would extend my heartfelt congratulations to various Banks and their employees who have been a very significant part of "Team India". I congratulate them for making banks so easily accessible to the poor and this fact will bring a major change in the coming days.

Among the global economic schools of thought, there is also the one which maintains that financial inclusion doesn't always bring positive results and due to that the system has to bear the pressure of poverty. I disagree

with this thought. In a country like India, if we look at the pyramid of development, its base is the broadest. If it be firm, the entire pyramid of development tends to be strong. Today the downtrodden, the exploited, oppressed, deprived, and the ignored ones of our country form the base of the pyramid of development. We have to strengthen the foundation of this pyramid of development so as to ensure that these people are empowered through financial inclusion and this pyramid of development remains unshakable. It would stand firm amid any crisis and if this pyramid of development is based on economic strength, it would increase the purchasing power of these people to a great extent. And when the purchasing power of the poorest of the poor in the society increases, nobody can stop that economy to flourish and move ahead. It takes the country swiftly to the newer heights of development and therefore it is our intention to give impetus to that. We have laid great stress upon social security and also the welfare of the poor - and thus Prime Minister's Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana and Prime Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Bima yojana have been launched. Crores of the people of our country have no social security cover. Leave the poor aside, benefit of insurance has not reached even the lower middle class. So we made a plan - just pay one rupee per month, not more, that is just Rs. 12 per annum and be entitled to the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. If your family faces any calamity then they will receive 2 lac rupees. We know how to manage an economy! That's why we launched Prime Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana for 90 paise a day, even less than 1 rupee. So it is Rs. 330 annually for the health of one's family - and for the security of one's family- insurance of 2 lac rupees. This is what we have done.

Brothers and sisters, schemes have been made in the past also. There is no Government which doesn't make schemes. Every Government does that. There is no government which doesn't make announcements. Every Government does that. There is no government which doesn't light the inauguration lamps, doesn't cut ribbons- every Government does that. But the touchstone is whether we walk the talk or not. We have laid a great stress upon a new work culture. Dear Countrymen, our nation has many schemes which are 40 years old or 50 years old but these schemes could not reach more than 5 or 7 crore people. This scheme has just completed a hundred days, 100 days! I mean it, and in these hundred days ten crore citizens have been benefited 10 crore people! Ten crore citizens of this country means ten crore families. And this means that out of total 30-35 crore families of our country, ten crore families have joined this scheme within a span of hundred days.

Brothers and sisters, the uniqueness of our government, of "Team India", during last one year, especially the great strength and the biggest achievement of "Team India", consisting of one hundred and twenty five crore people has been to fulfill the tasks within the set time frame.

Last year I referred to toilet facilities for all from this Red Fort, I also referred to cleanliness. It sounded strange to the whole country for a few hours as to what sort of Prime Minister is this! But today in all the surveys that has been carried out in the entire country, this point has come out in all of them that if there is something that is the most important factor of "Team India" and that has touched every person, is the movement towards cleanliness.

Brothers and sisters, we used to invoke the people of the society and marked the names of various people to promote the "cleanliness drive". That was such a period, but today I have to congratulate this "Team India". People from all walks of life whether they are Celebrities, Diplomats, Social Workers, Educationists, community leaders or spiritual leaders or our friends from media, all of them have taken a major responsibility to train the common man without criticising anybody and without pointing towards the lacunas. Today I greet them all from the core of my heart who have done this job but I only wish to stress upon a point- from whom this "Swachh Bharat" drive has gained maximum strength? Who are its biggest brand ambassador? You may not have paid heed to it, but try to remember what happened in your family? There are crores of such families in India, whose children are in the age group of five, ten and fifteen and they have become the greatest ambassador of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan". These children prevent their parents from littering in their homes and ask them to avoid spreading filth and rubbish here and there. In case, any father is addicted to consuming gutka and whenever the father opens the windows of the car to spit, his son prevents him to do so on the plea of keeping India clean. The success of this programme is due to those little children. I wish to bow my head towards the future of my country, I wish to bow my head and greet those children. The fact which is not realized even by the elite people has been easily understood by the innocent children and it is my belief that such a country where a child is so much aware, so committed towards cleanliness, such country is bound to become clean; Abhorrence against filth and dirt is bound to arise there.

In 2019 we are about to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and on 150th anniversary of Gandhiji we have to handover him "Swachh Bharat" as a tribute. There cannot be a greater tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. The task has just started, but





I have to take it forward, not to stop it, not get to satisfied. I had announced such a programme from here, just for a trial, so that I could ascertain whether "Team India" is able to do it or not. I had announced it without consulting anybody. It was not announced after collecting relevant information from districts and villages. It just came into my heart and I had announced that we would build separate toilets for boys and girls in all of our schools till the next 15th August. But later on, when we started work, the "Team India" figured out its responsibilities, we realised that there were 2 lakh and 62 thousand such schools, where more than 4.25 lakh toilets were required to be built. This figure was so big that any government could rethink to extend the deadline, but it certainly was the resolve of the "Team India" that no one sought any extension. Today, on this 15th August, I salute the "Team India", who, keeping the honour of our tricolour National Flag, left no stone unturned to realise that dream, and the "Team India" has now nearly achieved the target of building all the toilets. I compliment to all the state governments, government officers of the districts, policy framers and implementers of educational institutions, who were involved in realising this achievement. This is not just an issue of building more than 4.25 lakh toilets. This is an issue of creating an atmosphere of self-confidence at a time, when we were so engulfed with the negativity that it was being told that nothing could happen, there was no hope, it was not possible. But now, the "Team India" has demonstrated that we are ready to accept challenges, we would not withdraw, and we are committed for our success. The nation runs on this self-confidence, the nation runs by realising newer resolutions. We cannot stop anywhere, we have to continuously move forward. Therefore, Brothers and Sisters, we have prepared a plan for the labourers of our country, and it has been named as "SHRAMEVA JAYATE". Our attitude towards the poor labourers is not good.

If we meet a person wearing coat, pants, tie or we meet a great person wearing long kurta, jacket we salute him by standing in his honour. But if an auto rickshaw driver, pedal rickshaw puller, newspaper vendor or a milkman come to us, our feelings towards these poor men are not proper. One hundred and twenty five crore citizens of the country have to remove this deficiency of the nation by their resolution of mind. The persons due to whom we look good, who serve us good, no one is our better well wisher

than them and therefor, dignity of labourers, honour of labourers, pride of labourers- this should be our national duty, this should be our national character, this should be the tendency of everyone, nature of everyone. Recently, we started a campaign of issuing special identity card to the unorganized labour falling under certain schemes. They are to get the benefits of many schemes of security through that identity card. These unorganized labourers were never taken care of. Similarly, labourers of our country had deposited their share of hard earned money in Government coffers. Slowly, this amount grew to Rs. 27 thousand crores, but when that poor labourer moves to some another place after 6-8 months of employment there, moves to another place after a year or two from there, no account of the money he deposited there is maintained. The amount is also so low that he does not wish to bring back the same by spending two hundred rupees on fare. That is why Rs. 27 thousand crores of poor people of my country, labourers of my country, money earned by them by the sweat of their brow was lying idle in the coffers of the Government. We found a solution to it. We provided a special identity card number to these labourers and told them wherever you are transferred now, even if you move to another place by quitting the job or if you move from one factory to another, from one state to another, you will always retain this number and you will retain your money, no one will be able to misappropriate your single rupee. So, we have tried to return the Rs. 27 thousand crores to the poor.

It has become a fashion in our country- make law for everything and keep our courts busy. One law may contradict the other but the law should be on the same subject. Confusion was being created here always. This is not a good sign for good governance and therefor, law should be explicit, law should be correct, law should not be out of sync with time, only then society progresses.

Where will a poor labourer look for his thing of interest in the pile-up of different types of 44 legislations meant for our labourers? We have brought about a change therein. By incorporating these 44 legislations into four codes of conduct, the poorest of the poor and even an illiterate labourer can know about his or her interest, we have emphasized this scheme.

Brothers and Sisters, corruption is a much discussed topic in our country. We must have seen an ailing person, habitually, giving tips to others on how to be healthy. He does not care for himself, but it is the nature of every human being to advise others that you do it and you will become healthy and you do that and you will become healthy. Corruption is also like this. The person involved in it, also advise, the person who is suffering due to it, also advise and thus they advise each other, and this goes on and on.

Brothers and Sisters, I have never made this announcement, but today I wish to state, I want to assure my fellow countrymen, I want to tell the "Team India" comprising 1.25 billion people that this country can become corruption-free. On the basis of experience I am saying this. This job has to be started from the top. Corruption is stuck with our country like a termite and

the termite keeps on spreading, initially it is not visible, but when it spreads in our bedroom and reaches the cupboard where clothes are hung, we find that and when we want to get rid of it, insecticides have to be injected per square meter of land. After so many of years of efforts, we get rid of termite. Countless efforts of several types have to be made to wipe out the corruption in such a vast country, and that can be done. If I had said that I would cut subsidy worth Rs. 15 thousand cores on LPG gas, then I can say that hundreds of articles would have been written to glorify my Government. They can say that this man has the power and strength to discontinue the subsidy worth Rs. 15 thousand cores on LPG gas. It is this man who can take tough decision and if it is not done so, then nothing happens my dear friends and nothing is visible. Sometimes people are fond of sinking into despair. Until they talk of despair amongst people they can not sleep at night.

They have this habit. There are some ailing people, who do not like to disclose about their illness and they also do not like to someone inquiring about their ailment. While there are some others who wait for a particular person to enquire about their health and if he does not visit, they talk about this for hours together. I can see that there are some people who always search for negativism, propagate negativism and they enjoy it as much as they can. Such people neither have any schemes nor activities, yet 'Team India' consisting of 1.25 billion Indians is ready to invest time for them, but how does that happen? We have put in place a scheme of Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG subsidy. Taking advantage of Jan Dhan Accounts and Adhaar Card we have transferred the subsidy directly into the accounts. As a result of this the brokers, the middlemen and the blackmarketeers have disappeared. Only the real beneficiary got the benefit. Our Government have neither slashed a penny from anyone's benefit nor we have made announcements to earn praise. We have improved the system and today I wish to inform the 'Team India' of 1.25 billion Indians that as a result of this an amount of Rs.15 crore, which was being siphoned off annually in the name of gas cylinders has been stopped. My countrymen, the corruption has stopped.

My brothers and sisters, you can see how work is done? We have done it. Rupees 15,000 crore is not a small amount for a country like India. We have launched an open website, displayed a board of delivery there, even then if someone has a complaint, he would get a cylinder even at midnight but we cannot permit those who loot the country and poors as well. Tell me whether this is not a fight against corruption?

My brothers and sisters, I had made a request to my countrymen that if you are economically sound, then why do you avail subsidy on L.P.G? Why do you need this paltry amount of rupees five to seven hundred which you usually spend on petty snacks. I had just started giving message about this, I didn't launch any campaign as yet, because I have faith in 'Team India'. As the message spreads the result would come, but to-day I can tell with pride that ever-since I had launched movement of "give it up" subsidy of LPG gas cylinder, till date 20 lakh consumers have already given it up.

This is not a small figure. Even if we are in the queue before a temple for the blessings (Prasaad), we sometimes wish that we should get some of the prasad for our younger brother also. This is in our nature. These 20 lakh people are not from rich or wealthy families. They are all from the common middle class. Some teacher may have been a pensioner, but when he learnt that this LPG cylinder may go to some poor person, he gave up his subsidy. My dear brothers and sisters, when these 20 lakh LPG cylinders will reach the poor families whose kitchens are smoke choked, just think of the happiness of the mothers working in those kitchens! Just think of the relief and happiness of the little children who had been crying due to the smoke!



Whenever our efforts are in the right direction, we get great results.

My brothers and sisters, if I talk about coal, some of the political pundits or experts will judge me on a political angle. This is not a place for politicking, so I would like to urge upon all the political pundits that in this case, the kind of coal issue that I am going to raise, may please not be judged through the political angle. This is the requirement of our nation's resolve. CAG said that when coal blocks were allocated through lottery, the nation lost Rs.1 lakh and 74 thousand crores. We also used this statistics in the election-speeches. Nevertheless, we sometimes thought that this much of loss may not have been there. But we went on saying like that. Later we decided that whether it be coal, or spectrum or any other mineral, all will be auctioned henceforth. Lo and behold ! the great strength of the Team India of 125 crore Indians and their resolve ! within a certain time limit the coal was auctioned and now almost Rs. 3 lakh crore would be accruing to the national exchequer.

Brothers and sisters, just ask yourselves whether corruption was rooted out or not? Whether the middlemen were ousted or not? Whether the door was shut on the face of the wealth-stealers of India or not? I did not make any speech in this regard. I just did it. The same thing happened in the case of spectrum. Right now FM radio auction is going on. A lot of pressure was put on me. People said 'Modi ji, FM is operated by the common men, there is no great profit in this business. Why are you putting even FM on auction? A lot of pressure was put on



me. All attempts were made to dissuade me from this. But I said that the team India consisting of 125 crore of Indians wanted transparency.

Right now the auction is on for FM Radio in some 80-85 cities. The day before when I enquired, the auction amount had crossed Rs. one thousand crores. This money is going to be used for the poor people.

Brothers and sisters, what a run the country had at the hands of its leadership, how it was looted, what impact was put on the policies! What kind of an activity it was that continued in the country? Imported coal from the foreign countries was not given to the power plants near the coasts. It was transported to the factories of nearby areas of coal mines and the coal from those mines instead was taken to the factories in the coastal region. Now, even a small child in this country can understand as to how the goods can be utilized for the place where they are situated instead of going for their transport from that place to the other.

Brothers and sisters, we changed that decision. Nearby factories should be the first beneficiaries. And let me say that this small decision closed down the shops of the middlemen and the exchequer has got Rs. 1100 crores. My dear citizens, it will happen every year now.

Corruption in a way has become part of the system. Until it is stamped out from the system, dear brothers and sisters, I'll keep suffering every atrocity, facing every obstacle but with your blessings I shall fulfill the dream of a corruption free India. I say this to you from the ramparts of the Red Fort with the tricolour as my witness and the understanding of the dreams of the 125 crore people. It's been 15 months since you put our Government in Centre and gave me the mandate. This Government does not have any allegation of corruption against it for even a single penny. But I had said alongside that it was like the pests, the termite. Corruption free Government in Delhi only is not going to solve the whole problem. There are problems at the small places right now and the poor are getting troubled. We need to bring in a national level awareness for this. We need to comprehend this menace of corruption properly and get everyone on board to eradicate it. Then only can we get rid of the menace.

Brothers and sisters, let me say further that we have taken some very important steps one after the other to check black money, and that too in a very short span of time.

The day we formed the Government, we constituted an SIT under the supervision of the Supreme Court. We did what was pending for three years. The SIT is doing its job. I attended the G-20 summit. These are the countries whose support we need for bringing black money back. On India's insistence a resolution was passed against black money. All G-20 countries resolved to cooperate with each other and send back the black money to the country where it belonged. We adopted FATCA along with the United States. We have signed agreements with many countries for receiving real time information regarding Indian's black money. We have taken several measures to check black money.

Brothers and sisters, we have passed a strict law for this. After this enactment every week people call us and complain that we have passed a very stringent law. They call it a draconian law and a black law and say that officers would harass them. Dear fellow citizens, we need injections if the disease is serious. Doctors also warn us about the side effects of such injections. Similarly, this disease is so serious that if we want a treatment, we will have to bear the side effects also. I know that people are upset with the law which we have passed. They find it troublesome. We have received many messages for diluting the provisions and relaxing it. Today I would like to tell Team India of 125 crore countrymen that even while bearing the side effects, we are moving forward against black money. This much has been done. It's a fact that the process of bringing back the black money is long but now no one can dare to send the black money out of the country. This much has been achieved, whether someone believes it or not. Not only this, we have given some grace period for declaring undisclosed income and today I can say that people have come forward and declared their undisclosed income amounting to Rs. 6500 crores. This amount will accrue to our exchequer. It will benefit the poor of India. Friends, I assure you all that we will move forward with all the resolve to fulfill the commitments we have made.

Brothers and sisters, CBI had registered only eight hundred cases in the entire one year before formation of our government. We are still new in power but we have already registered eighteen hundred cases since we took charge; we have taken action against government employees. You can easily imagine and compare the figures. In the entire one year before we came to power, only eight hundred cases were registered and in the ten months of our government the corresponding number is eighteen hundred. It shows our ability to fight corruption.

In 2005, a law namely 'PMLA' was framed in our country. In ten years, an amount of ten thousand crore rupees has been recovered under that law. But you would be surprised to know that out of the total recovered amount of ten thousand crore rupees, four thousand five hundred crore rupees have been recovered in the last ten months. This is another example of our commitment to fight corruption about which we are not talking in press

conferences on TV; rather we have taken steps on the ground and reaped success. We have endeavored to change systems. We have taken steps to ensure that the 'MGNREGA' wages go directly to the Jan Dhan account; that the scholarship for students goes directly into their bank accounts; and that there is least brokerage. And I believe that because of these steps the country can fulfill those objectives.

My farmer brothers and sisters, last year we had deficient rainfall. It was less than required. It affected the economy as well as our farmers. We were still able to curb the price rise. One will have to admit the fact that before us, the inflation was in double digits. Since we came to power, although there has been less rain and the farmers were distressed; we have been successful in bringing down the inflation from double digits to 3-4 percent. We will continue to strive to bring it further down because our dream is to provide wholesome meals to the poorest of the poor. However, we need drastic changes in the agriculture sector. The cultivable land is shrinking; it is getting divided between families and pieces of land are getting smaller. The fertility and productivity of our agricultural land must increase. The farmers need water and electricity and we are working towards their availability. We have decided to pump in fifty thousand crore rupees in 'Pradhaan Mantri Krishi Sinchaai Yojna'. How will the water reach the farms? Water will have to be saved. We have to launch a movement in our agricultural sector with the mantra of "Save Water, Save Energy, and Save Fertilizers". Hence, "Per drop more crop" is our watchword; each drop of water can contribute towards producing more crop and hence successful farming. We have moved in the direction of spending funds to take this cause further.

In the recent past, when our crops got damaged due to hailstorm, we increased the compensation enormously. Such an increase has never been witnessed in the past 60 years. Not only this, earlier if there were any losses, there was the norm according to which one would be entitled for compensation only if the losses suffered were at least 50 per cent. We have brought it down to 30 per cent. Never in the past 60 years was such a great initiative of helping the farmers taken. Farmers need urea. I would like to tell once again as to how to fight corruption. "Neem-Coating" is not the brain child of Shri Modi, rather it is an idea propounded by Scientists and this idea has not only been brought before my government, it has come before previous governments as well. In our country, urea worth millions and billions of rupees is allocated in the names of farmers, but 15, 20 or 25 per cent of this urea is diverted to the chemical factories as raw material. Allocated in the names of farmers, this urea is pilfered through the middlemen. This pilferage of urea cannot be stopped unless we go for cent per cent "Neem-Coating" of urea. Therefore, irrespective of the burden caused to the exchequer, we have accomplished the task of doing hundred per cent "Neem-Coating" of urea. As a result of this, now urea cannot be used for any purpose other than farming. Now, no chemical factory can indulge in any kind of pilferage of urea. The farmers will have as much urea as they need. Since the urea is "Neem Coated", even if they use 10 per cent less of urea, their land will be benefitted

with the nutritional value it requires. The farmers of my country will be having a new advantage of urea - I would suggest to all the farmers that even if by chance someone shows you urea without "Neem-Coating", you take it to be unauthorized by the Government. If someone gives you a yellow powder, don't even touch it.

Brothers and sisters, India cannot develop till the eastern part of the country develops. India cannot be said to be developing only on the basis of the development of the western parts of the country. India will move ahead only when our eastern Uttar Pradesh becomes prosperous, our Bihar becomes strong, our West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, North Eastern regions tread the path of development. These territories of India should become powerful. And so whether is a matter of infrastructure or of rail connectivity or of digital connectivity - in all these aspects, we have focussed on eastern India. This focus has resulted in the proposed laying of a gas pipe line in this region. Who could have thought that the states where there was no potable tap water even in kitchen, there we are working to supply the gas through pipe lines. Four urea fertilizer plants were shut down in eastern India. Youth of these states were unemployed and farmers were in distress. We have made new urea policy and we have also formulated new gas supply policy. This has resulted in revival of fertilizer plants of eastern centers of Gorakhpur, Barauni, Talcher and Sindari. Thus we are working to provide employment to the youth and fertilizers to the farmers.

Brothers and sisters, there is a Government Department for Army soldiers and for their welfare. In our country farmers are as important as soldiers. What have we done in sixty years! We have emphasized on the economic aspect of agriculture. With the intention to have flourishing agriculture and for agricultural advancement, the concerned ministry of this government has been named as 'Ministry of Agriculture'.

Brothers and sisters, Agricultural growth is as important as the welfare of farmers. Only talking about agricultural development is incomplete for rural life style and for agriculture based livelihood. That will become complete, when the welfare of the farmer is also linked. Brothers and Sisters, the Ministry of the Government of India which was earlier known as "Ministry of Agriculture", from now will be known as the "Ministry of farmer Welfare" and in the days to come schemes for the welfare of farmers will also be formulated alike the schemes for agriculture are prepared and the Government would make efforts to provide help to the farmers by means of setting permanent system for the problems that my farmers has to face in his personal life, the hurdles that he has to go through.

Brothers and sisters, in the coming days I wish to concentrate on an issue. There has been so many years of independence but even today there are about eighteen thousand, five hundred such villages in our country, where electric wires and polls are yet to reach. Eighteen thousand five hundred villages are deprived of the sun of independence, deprived of the light of independence, they are deprived of the rays of development of independence. If we will keep on following the old methods, perhaps it will take ten more years to electrify these eighteen thousand,

five hundred villages with wires and polls. The country is not ready to wait for ten years.

I took the meeting of government officials and enquired from them about the timeline. Someone promised to complete the task till 2019, someone assured to complete it till 2022. Some were hesitant due to dense forests or snowy hills, and some had apprehension due to inaccessibility of certain areas. But, it is now the solemn pledge of the "Team India" of 1.25 billion countrymen that the target of providing electric polls, electric wires and electricity to these 18,500 villages would be achieved within next 1000 days. I urge upon the states to come forward and accept this challenge. This is not pending in every state, only a few states will have to strive a little further. I would not like to count the name of such states, as it would be viewed politically and may attract political comments. Hence, it's better to avoid it. I, therefore, announce the pledge of the 'Team India' of our 1.25 billion countrymen, from the Red Fort, that electricity would be made available to 18,500 villages within the next 1000 days, with the help of states and local bodies.

I have taken up another issue of concern, which is 'Welfare of Farmers'. Similar issue of grave concern is the under-development of such mining areas, from where we get mineral resources, such as coal, bauxite and other minerals. Now, look at the life of people there. They sweat to make our country rich but that region is not developed and, therefore, we have formulated a special scheme for the development of the labourers and farmers of the region from where minerals are extracted and around rupees six thousand crores will be spent every year on the regions which fall in the areas of my tribals brothers, located in my tribal areas. Where coal is found? Coal is found in tribal areas. We have undertaken work to see development takes place there.

Brother and sisters, our youth power is of import for taking the country forward in twenty first century and today, I want to declare that if we have to move ahead in comparison to the whole world, we have to encourage our youths, we have to provide them opportunities. How our youths become new entrepreneurs, how our youths become new producers, how a complete network of start-up by

these new entrepreneurs is set up in the whole country? There should not be any district, any block in Hindustan where there are not start-up initiated in the coming days. Whether India cannot dream that India becomes number one in the world of start-up. Today we are not at that position. Brothers and Sisters, I have to provide strength to start-up and, therefore, I resolve that in the coming days "Start-up India" and "Stand-up India" will be there or the future of the country. And for a bright future of the country "Stand-up India" shall be launched when I want to move forward this job pertaining to "Start-up India", "Stand-up India", my brothers and sisters, in our country our bank officials have done a herculean task, and when you do a good job, my expectations rise a lot.

My banker friends, my expectations are rising, so please do not get offended, but I trust you that your subordinate staff is contributing a lot for the economic advancement of this nation and in future they will continue to put in further more efforts. I want to assign you a task today. There are 1.25 lakhs banking units i.e. 1.25 lakhs branches of banks in the country. Today, I would like to assign a task to these 1.25 lakhs branches. This year marks the 125th anniversary of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkarji. There are 1 crore 25 lakhs branches of banks. This is my programme referred to as "Start-up India", under this programme more schemes will be formulated, but every branch must resolve and in the days to come resolve once again to disburse loans for start-ups to the tribals in the locality where there is any tribal habitation, and where there is no tribal habitation, the branch can provide loans to a dalit or a tribal, give financial support to them and thus enable 1.25 lakhs Dalit entrepreneurs to come up. Let there be tribal entrepreneurs in the tribal settlements of this country. We can do this, we can give a new dimension to start-up and secondly whether these one lakh twenty five thousand branches can formulate a special scheme for women entrepreneurs? These one lakh twenty five thousand branches should promote start-up of women entrepreneurs and help them financially. You will find that with in no time, India would see a network of start up, new entrepreneurs would emerge and they would in-turn provide employment ranging from one to two to four persons which will transform India's economic life.

Brothers and sisters, when investment comes to the country, we expect more manufacturing work and more exports and the finance department of the Government offer new schemes to such investors. It has its own significance and this should continue. But today I have a new idea that the investment coming to our country in the manufacturing sector should be offered assistance based on new parameters and one of them shall be that an investor who comes with an enterprise which provides employment to maximum persons would be eligible for a different kind of economic package.

The Government would now formulate new schemes for new units linking it with employment and assistance of Government. We want to stress upon the growth of employment opportunities in the country. We have reached far beyond in the direction of fulfilling the dreams of skill India and digital India. Brothers and sisters, one area of corruption is job. The poorest of the poor man



aspires for his son's job and we have seen that whenever a youth receives a call for an interview for a job, may be that is for interview in railway, for a teacher, for a peon, for a driver, he began to think about who he should approach for recommendation? Even his widow mother begin to brood over the issue. why? That is because in our country justice and injustice are mostly decided on the basis of interview rather than the basis of merit and it is said that the person has failed in the interview. I have not seen any such psychologist till now, who are capable of assessing a person on the basis of interviewing him just for two minutes.

Brothers and sisters, I have been thinking over it for many days that whether it is necessary to appear for an interview for a son of a poor mother, for a less educated person who is in need of petty jobs? Whether he can't get any job without an interview? Whether on the basis of his mark-sheet online-- it should be decided on the basis of online mark sheet that if we require five hundred people, than who should be those initial five hundred people, then who should be initial two thousand people. Of course, where the testing of physical fitness is required, the norms and system could vary there. Personality and experience of a candidate matters only for jobs of senior ranks, but it is painful to see that candidates even from the states of Nagaland and Mizoram rush to Mumbai to appear in exams for junior-level posts in Railways. I have to combat this problem. I impress upon the state governments and my colleagues of the Government to discontinue the stage of interview for junior-level posts as soon as possible. Such jobs should be given just on the basis of merit. This would help in curbing corruption, which hurts the poor people, and it would ease out their problem. It is my appeal to endeavour towards this goal.

My countrymen enjoy sound sleep. But, if our 1.25 billion countrymen are able to enjoy their undisturbed sleep, it is only due to ever-readiness of our jawans to sacrifice themselves, who are posted at the borders. No country can under-evaluate the importance of its armed forces. For the 'Team India' of 1.25 billion countrymen, each and every soldier or jawan is the strength of the nation, wealth of the nation and force of the nation. Many successive governments have come and gone over the years. The issue of "One Rank One Pension" has come before every government, each one has considered its proposal, and each and every government has made promises on it, but the problem is still pending to be resolved.

After my assuming office as Prime Minister I have not been able to do this by now. Today, I am again assuring all the service personnel and this is not being said by one man, I am saying this on behalf of One hundred and twenty five crores people of "Team India". I am saying this under the Tricolour from the ramparts of the Red Fort. I say to service personnel, we have accepted "One Rank One Pension" in principal but talks are going on with its organizations. Talks have reached at the final stage and we want that all get justice keeping in view the development of whole country. We have to find the solution of this problem in the light of above context which is lingering on from 20-25 years. I believe that the trust in which talks are being held, some positive result will come out of it. And, therefore,

I again assure that this Government has accepted "One Rank One Pension" in principal. How it is implemented in view of its nitty-gritty situation, we are taking the talks forward by engaging with its stakeholders.

Brothers and sisters, India is completing 75 years of its independence in 2022. We have not to sit idle after celebrating 75 years of India's independence on 15th August, 2022. Today itself, on this 15th August, let we have a resolution for the 15th August, 2022 that 6 lakhs villages of India, each village must decide and resolve that by 2022, we will be able to overcome problem in every village. My 1.25 billion countrymen and we, in our lives, take a resolution for the 2022, the 75 years of Independence of India. Every citizen take a resolution that I will perform this task for the well being of the country and betterment of the society. Once my 1.25 crores fellow countrymen will move forward with a resolution, then by the dawn of 15th August 2022, when the souls of soldiers who laid down their lives for the freedom will see that the country might have fulfilled 1.25 crores resolutions, 6 lakhs villages might have realized their dreams. Cities, Metropolitan cities, every department of the government, every unit of the government should take a resolution and get to work. And there should not be any literature, there should not be any programme wherein 15th August 2022 is not re-iterated, where resolution for the 75th years of Independence is not re-iterated. A momentum need to be created. Brothers and Sisters the movement for freedom lasted several decades. Nevertheless the freedom was in the air only, then someone raised the issue of freedom in the year 1910, again in the year 1920 and again and again in the year 1930 and so on. The issue was re-iterated for decades, only then we attained freedom. In order to build a self confident, magnificent and prosperous India we have to make our country competent, prosperous and healthy. We have to fulfill the dream of a well cultured India, build self confident India and excellent India. No poor person in this country should remain without shelter by 2022. We have to succeed in providing round the clock electricity. Our farmer should be capable, our worker should be satisfied, our women should be empowered, our youth should be self dependent, our elderly should be hail and hearty and our poor should be prosperous. No one should remain backward in our society and everyone should enjoy equal rights and entire Indian society should reel in harmony. With this dream once again I convey my heartiest congratulation to 1.25 billion countrymen on this pious festival of freedom with preparedness to move forward in a specific role for 75th anniversary of independence. Repeat me with full strength:-

Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram.

Jai Hind, Jai Hind, Jai Hind!

# 69th Independence Day of India Celebrations in Sri Lanka

August 15, 2015

The High Commission of India and the Indian expatriate community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 69th Independence Day of India on August 15, 2015 at India House in Colombo. High Commissioner Shri 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, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

The High Commissioner, Shri Y. K. Sinha noted that the President had highlighted India's progress in advancing its interests globally. India is also engaged in pro-actively promoting goodwill and prosperity in its immediate neighbourhood. Peace, friendship and cooperation bind nations and peoples together. Recognizing the shared destiny of the Indian sub-continent, India will strengthen connectivity, expand institutional capacity and enhance mutual trust to further regional cooperation

Referring to vibrant and robust relations between India and Sri Lanka, High Commissioner stated that this year has been very eventful for both India and Sri Lanka. India's policy of "Neighbourhood First" recognizes that neighbours have a first claim on India and Sri Lanka is amongst India's closest and dearest neighbours.

High Commissioner noted that domestic developments in the two countries have led to a revitalization of India - Sri Lanka relations. President Maithripala Sirisena visited India



in February, which was his first overseas visit after assuming office. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid a historic visit to Sri Lanka in March, the first stand alone bilateral visit to Sri Lanka by an Indian Prime Minister since 1987. During Prime Minister, Shri Modi's visit, it was reiterated that Sri Lanka has the potential to be India's strongest economic partner in the region.

High Commissioner reiterated India's abiding commitment to boosting relations with Sri Lanka. The Indian flagship Housing Project involving construction of 50000 houses is making excellent progress and will be completed soon. Moreover, the bilateral relationship is expanding to new vistas, especially in field of Science and Technology. The extension of e-Tourist Visa facility to Sri Lankan citizens has provided a boost to people to people contacts.

High Commissioner, Shri Sinha concluded that on the eve of parliamentary elections, Sri Lanka is poised to embark upon a new journey of peace, reconciliation and progress. In the light of the civilisational ties that bind us, India will continue to extend its hand of friendship and support to Sri Lanka in this endeavour.

High Commissioner's address was followed by a brief cultural programme by ICCR sponsored percussion maestro Pandit Subhen Chatterje and his group.

Thereafter, High Commissioner in the presence of other officials of the High Commission laid a wreath to honour 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 Independence Day of India, Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, had organized a musical evening entitled, "Bandish Fusion" on August 14, 2015 by ICCR sponsored artistes, Pandit Subhen Chatterjee and his group.

Consulates General of India in Jaffna and Hambantota and the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy also celebrated the 69th Independence Day by organizing flag hoisting ceremonies



# High Commissioner's Message on the occasion of 69th Independence Day of India

On the occasion of the 69th Independence Day of India, I extend my greetings and best wishes to my fellow citizens and to the friendly people and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

This has been a very eventful year, for both India and Sri Lanka, and for our bilateral relations. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, India is engaging the world with greater confidence and assurance. It is doing so with the intent of ensuring stronger growth, greater connectivity, closer integration and deeper harmony. India wants to expand commonalities and manage differences with the world. It is prepared to shoulder greater responsibility and expects that this would be duly reflected in the structure of the international order. India's is pursuing a new neighbourhood policy of "Neighbourhood First", which puts a premium on greater connectivity, stronger and mutually beneficial cooperation and deeper ties with its neighbours. There is also recognition that neighbours have a first claim on India and Sri Lanka is amongst our closest and dearest neighbours. Sri Lanka, too, has seen significant developments, including landmark presidential elections, the formation of a government of national unity, constitutional reforms, and a renewal of hope for the future. On the eve of parliamentary elections, Sri Lanka is poised to embark upon a new journey of peace, reconciliation and progress. In the light of the civilisational ties that bind us, India will continue to

extend its hand of friendship and support to Sri Lanka in this endeavour.

Domestic developments in our countries have led to a revitalization of India – Sri Lanka relations. Four high level bilateral visits within 90 days of the formation of a new government in Sri Lanka heralded a new chapter in our relations. President Maithripala Sirisena visited India in February, which was his first overseas visit after assuming office. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid a historic visit to Sri Lanka in March, the first stand alone bilateral visit to Sri Lanka by an Indian Prime Minister since 1987. There was also an exchange of visits between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, underlining the friendship and cooperation between our two countries. These visits have imparted a new dynamism to our bilateral relations.

Close economic engagement continues to be a key pillar of our bilateral relationship. During his visit, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi stated that Sri Lanka has the potential to be India's strongest economic partner in the region. He urged businesses in India and Sri Lanka to pursue enhanced engagement, by moving forward with greater belief in the mutual comparative advantages and, most importantly, with full confidence in the fruits of partnership. Both countries are reaping the benefits of the 15 year old India – Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which was signed in 2000. The robust growth in bilateral trade during 2014 has continued in 2015. As per figures of Sri Lankan



Customs, during the first half of 2015, bilateral trade has increased by more than 20% as compared to the same period in 2014. India also figures in the top 5 sources of Foreign Direct Investment into Sri Lanka in 2015.

During Prime Minister, Shri Modi's visit, important initiatives were announced to deepen bilateral economic and commercial engagement. These included the Joint Development of the Upper Tank Farm of the China Bay Installation in Trincomalee; a Joint Task Force on Ocean Economy; a fresh Line of Credit of US\$ 318 million for the railways sector; a currency swap worth US\$ 1.5 billion between the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Reserve Bank of India; extension of the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme to Sri Lankan nationals; and commencement of direct flights by Air India between New Delhi and Colombo. Prime Minister, Shri Modi also inaugurated the Talaimannar Pier - Madhu Raod section of the Northern Railway line and the Talaimannar Pier Railway Station.

The symbiotic relationship between India and Sri Lanka is exemplified through the inter-woven lives of ordinary Indians and Sri Lankans. This relationship is buttressed by the message of peace, tolerance and friendship, defined by the journey of Arahata Mahinda and Sanghamitra Theri two millennia ago. Even today, this message resonates in both countries. Just last week, the prestigious Indian scholarships named after Mahatma Gandhi were awarded to 150 high school students from all 25 districts across Sri Lanka by H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Most of the students who received this scholarship in



the past have gone on to excel in their chosen fields of study at the undergraduate and higher levels. India has been attracting a growing number of Sri Lankan students for tertiary education, as it offers a 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 urge the youth of Sri Lanka to take full advantage of these scholarships.

India's commitment to development partnership with Sri Lanka has been reiterated by our leadership on various occasions. In this respect, we are guided, and will continue to do so, by the Government and people



of Sri Lanka. Also, this assistance will continue to be disbursed with the same level of transparency that we expect in our own country. Our flagship Housing Project involving construction of 50000 houses in Sri Lanka has made excellent progress. During his visit to Jaffna, Prime Minister, Shri Modi had handed over houses to some beneficiaries in Ilvalai North West in Jaffna. We are hopeful of completing the second phase of the project on schedule by end-2015. For the third phase of the Housing Project, including construction of 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces, work is expected to start as soon as the modalities are worked out.

It is very encouraging to note that our bilateral relations are expanding to new vistas, particularly in science and technology. During the visit of President Sirisena to India in February, an agreement was signed on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which is an area with immense potential for cooperation, particularly in the field of medicine. We also hope that Sri Lanka will seek maximum benefits from India's satellite for the SAARC region, which is expected to be launched by December 2016.

The extension of e-Tourist Visa facility to Sri Lankan citizens has provided a boost to greater people to people contacts between our two countries. With effect from April this year, India also reduced fees for Sri Lankan nationals visiting National Museum in Delhi to see the Kapilavastu Relics. Sri Lankan nationals now have to pay a nominal entry fee of INR 10 (against INR 300 previously) to view the rich and varied collection at the National Museum, and Sri Lanka is the only country to be accorded this special status. India and Sri Lanka have agreed to develop the Buddhist and Ramayana Trails respectively. These initiatives will help transform age old spiritual links and geographical proximity into contemporary inter-linkages. We hope to bridge the hearts and minds of our two people to reflect our shared destiny.

Yesterday, as a part of the Indian Independence Day celebrations, the Indian Cultural Centre organized a musical soiree by the famous fusion percussionist, Pandit Subhen Chatterjee. Indeed, we are happy to be inaugurating a Festival of India later this year.

Cricketing ties are a part of the shared societal fabric of the two countries. Currently, the Indian Cricket Team is on tour in Sri Lanka and is playing a three test series, with the first test underway at Galle. As part of the Festival of India, we will be organizing, in cooperation with Sri Lanka Cricket, an exhibition early next year, which will chronicle the cricketing ties between our two countries.

A future of prosperity requires a strong foundation of security, peace and stability in our countries and in our region. The security of our two countries is indivisible. Equally, our shared responsibility for our maritime neighbourhood is clear. India will continue to cooperate closely with Sri Lanka on issues relating to maritime security and to reap the benefits of the ocean economy.

As Sri Lanka votes in crucial parliamentary elections two days from now, India remains committed to assist all Sri Lankans in their efforts to build a future that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of society for a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity in a united Sri Lanka. We look forward to working closely with the government that is elected by Sri Lankans, to further strengthen the strong edifice of our bilateral relations. As Prime Minister, Shri Modi said, our recent histories have shown that we have suffered together; and we are more effective when we work with each other.

Long live India-Sri Lanka relations!



# 69th Independence Day of India Celebrations at Consulate General Offices in Hambanethota, Kandy and Jaffna

August 15, 2015





## What is Digital India ?

Digital India is a Programme to prepare India for a knowledge future. Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India has laid emphasis on National e- governance plan and has given its approval for Digital India - A programme to transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy.

Digital India is an ambitious programme of Government of India projected at Rs 1,13,000 crores. This will be for preparing the India for the knowledge based transformation and delivering good governance to citizens by synchronized and co-ordinated engagement with both Central Government and State Government.

This programme has been envisaged by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and will impact ministry of communications & IT, ministry of rural development, ministry of human resource development, ministry of health and others. This programme will also benefit all states and union territories. The existing/ ongoing e-Governance initiatives would be revamped to align them with the principles of Digital India. The vision of Digital India is to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It would ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically. It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically.

The Digital India vision provides the intensified impetus for further momentum and progress for e-Governance and would promote inclusive growth that covers electronic services, products, devices, manufacturing and job opportunities.

Digital infrastructure will focus on providing high speed secure Internet. Governance and services on demand will stress on integrating services across departments and jurisdictions and making services available in real time for both online and mobile platform.

Digital empowerment of citizens will pay emphasis on universal digital literacy and availability of digital resources/services in Indian languages.

The programme will be implemented in phases

from 2014 till 2018. The source of funding for most of the e-Governance projects at present is through budgetary provisions of respective ministries/ departments in the central or state governments. Requirements of funds for individual project(s) for Digital India will be worked out by respective nodal ministries/departments but according to government estimate it will cost Rs 113,000 crore. To implement this the government is planning to strengthen National Informatics Center (NIC) by restructuring it to support all central government departments and state governments. Positions of chief information officers (CIO) would be created in at least 10 key ministries so that e-Governance projects could be designed, developed and implemented faster.

Apart from this, the DeitY would create four senior positions within the department for managing the programme say additional secretary, Digital India; joint secretary, infrastructure development; joint secretary, capacity building and digital enablement; and joint secretary, IT applications in uncovered areas & process re-engineering.

## VISION of Digital India:

Infrastructure as a utility to every citizen:

High speed internet shall be made available in all gram panchayats; Cradle to grave digital identity; Mobile and Bank account would enable participation in digital and financial space at individual level; Easy access to common service centre within their locality; Shareable private space on a public cloud; and Safe and secure cyber space in the country.

## Governance and Services on Demand:

Single window access to all persons by seamlessly integrating departments or jurisdictions; availability of government services in online and mobile platforms; All citizen entitlements to be available on the Cloud to ensure easy access; Government services to be digitally transformed for improving ease of doing business; Making financial transactions above a threshold, electronic and cashless; and Leveraging GIS for decision support systems and development.

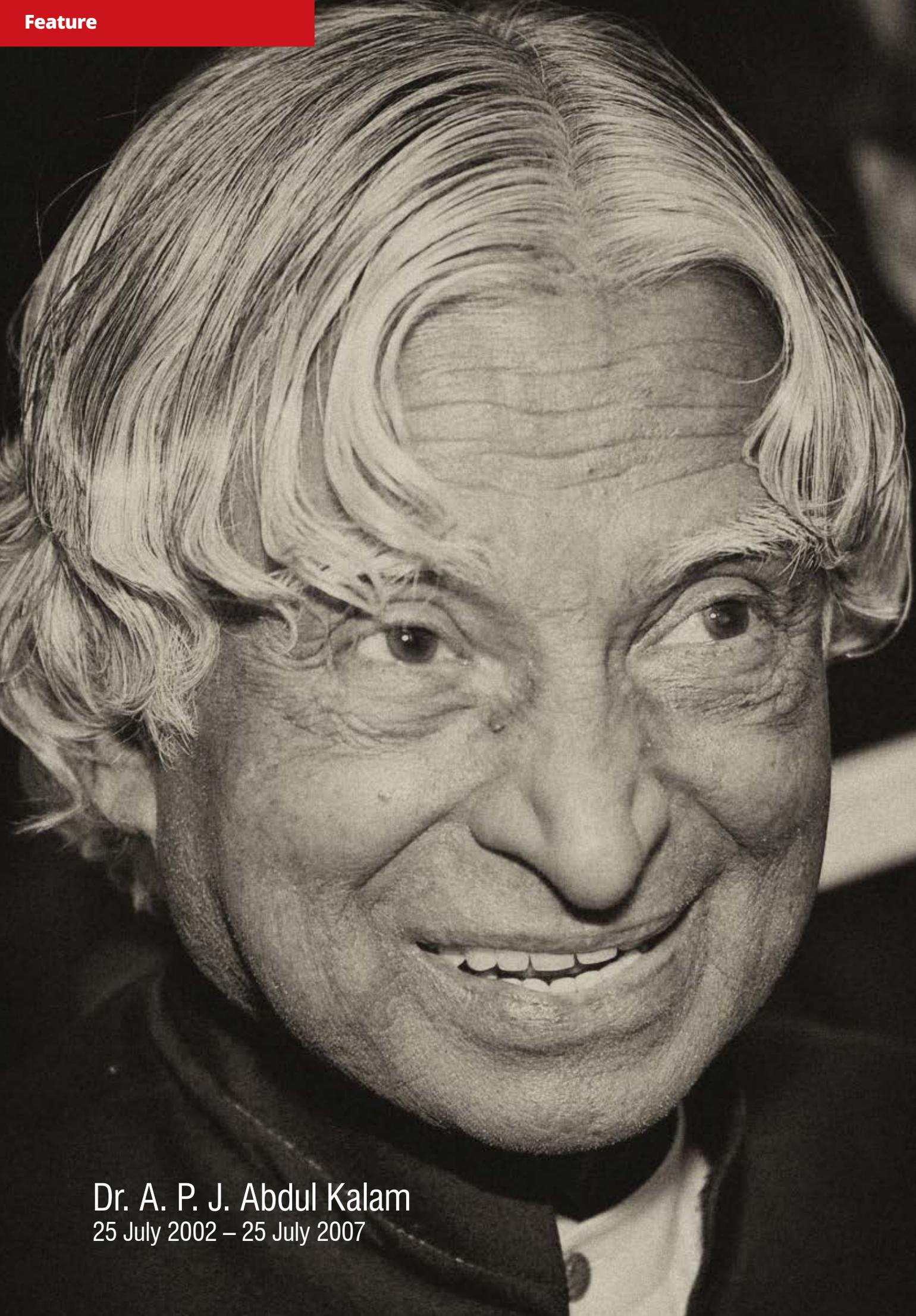
## Digital empowerment of citizens:

Universal digital literacy; All digital resources universally accessible; All government documents/certificates to be available on the Cloud; Availability of digital resources/services in Indian languages; Collaborative digital platforms for participative governance; Portability of all entitlements for individuals through the cloud.

# 9 Pillars of Digital India

Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple Government Ministries and Departments. It weaves together a large number of ideas and thoughts into a single, comprehensive vision so that each of them can be implemented as part of a larger goal. Each individual element stands on its own, but is also part of the larger picture. Digital India is to be implemented by the entire Government with overall coordination being done by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY). Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology, e-Kranti - Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing, IT for Jobs and Early Harvest Programmes. Each of these areas is a complex programme in itself and cuts across multiple Ministries and Departments.

<p><b>BROADBAND HIGHWAYS</b></p>	 <p><b>BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY</b></p>
<p><b>UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO MOBILE CONNECTIVITY</b></p>	
<p><b>PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAMME</b></p>	
<p><b>E-GOVERNANCE- REFORMING GOVERNMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY</b></p>	
<p><b>eKRANTI - ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF SERVICES</b></p>	
<p><b>INFORMATION FOR ALL</b></p>	 <p><b>MYGOV</b> AN INTERFACE BETWEEN CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT</p>
<p><b>ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING</b></p>	
<p><b>IT FOR JOBS</b></p>	
<p><b>EARLY HARVEST PROGRAMMES</b></p>	<p><b>HELPING TO FIND MISSING CHILDREN</b></p> <p>Khoya-Paya</p> 



Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam  
25 July 2002 – 25 July 2007

# Kalam's Vision for Nation was anchored in Freedom and Strength :

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid a glowing tribute to former president, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in an article shared with Hindustan Times on July 23, 2015 calling him his 'marg darshak'(guide) who epitomised the values of self-restraint, sacrifice and compassion.

Shri Modi said the scientist-President never measured success by material possessions. "As a hero of our defence programme, he shifted horizons; and as a seer of the spirit, he sought to liberate doctrine from the narrow confines of partisan tension to the transcendental space of harmony,"he said.

BHARAT has lost a Ratna, but the light from this jewel will guide us towards Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's dream-destination: India as a knowledge superpower, in the first rank of nations. Our scientist-President -and one who was genuinely loved and admired across the masses - never measured success by material possessions. For him, the counterpoint to poverty was the wealth of knowledge, in both its scientific and spiritual manifestations. As a hero of our defence programme, he shifted horizons; and as a seer of the spirit, he sought to liberate doctrine from the narrow confines of partisan tension to the transcendental space of harmony.

Every great life is a prism, and we bathe in those rays that find their way to us. His profound idealism was secure because it rested on a foundation of realism. Every child of deprivation is a realist. Poverty does not encourage illusions. Poverty is a terrible inheritance; a child can be defeated even before he or she has begun to dream. But Kalamji refused to be defeated by circumstances. As a boy, he had to support his studies by earning money as a newspaper vendor; today, page after page of the same newspapers are filled with his obituary notices. He said that he would not be presumptuous enough to say that his life could be a role model for anybody; but if some poor child living in an obscure and underprivileged social setting found some solace in the way his destiny had been shaped, it could perhaps help such children liberate themselves from the bondage of illusory backwardness and helplessness. He is my marg darshak, as well as that of every such child.

His character, commitment and inspirational vision shine through his life. He was unencumbered by ego; flattery left him cold. He was equally at ease before an audience of suave, globe-trotting ministers and a class of young students. The first thing that struck one about him was that, uniquely, he combined the honesty of a child with the energy of a teenager and the maturity of



an adult. He took little from the world, and gave all he could to society. A man of deep faith, he epitomised the three great virtues of our civilization: dama, self-restraint; dana, sacrifice; and daya, compassion.

But this persona was powered by the fire of endeavour. His vision for the nation was anchored in freedom, development and strength. Given our history, freedom had a political context of course; but it also included freedom of the mind and expansion of intellectual space. He wanted India to leap out of the under-developed trough, and eliminate the curse of poverty through inclusive economic growth. Wisely, he suggested that politicians spend only 30% of their time on politics, and 70% on development; a suggestion which he often followed up by calling in MPs from a state and discussing the socio-economic issues of their region with them. The third pillar, strength, was not born of aggression, but of understanding. An insecure nation will rarely discover the route to prosperity. Strength commands respect. His contributions in our nuclear and space achievements have given India the muscle to be confident of her place in the region and the world.

His memory is best honoured by the creation of new institutions that nurture science and technology, and enable us to find a beneficial equation with the awesome power of nature. Too often, greed makes us predators of our environment. Kalamji saw poetry in a tree, and energy that could be harnessed in water, wind and sun. We should learn to look at our world through his eyes, and with the same missionary zeal.

Human beings can shape their lives through will, persistence, ability and sheer courage. But we have not been given the right to script where we are born, or how and when we die. However, if Kalamji had been offered an option, this is how he would perhaps have chosen to say goodbye: on his feet, and in front of a classroom of his beloved students. As a bachelor, he was childless. But that is wrong. He was a father to every Indian child, teaching, cajoling, urging, exciting, clearing darkness wherever he found it with the radiance of his vision and the passion of his involvement. He saw the future, and showed the way. As I entered the room where his body lay in state, I noticed the painting at the entrance that depicted a few lines from an inspirational book he wrote for children, Ignited Minds. The good that he did will not be interred with his bones, because his children will preserve his memory through their lives and work, and gift it to their children.

# Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam

## 11th President of India, Distinguished Professor, IIT

After demitting office as the 11th President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam has committed himself to the India Millennium Mission 2020, a program that he piloted, which aims to transform India into a developed nation by 2020. Before his five-year presidency, Dr. Kalam acted as Project Director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle. He was also the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and Secretary from July 1992 to December 1999, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, in the rank of Cabinet Minister, from November 1999 to November 2001 and was responsible for evolving policies, strategies, and missions for many development applications.

Born on 15 October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam specialized in Aeronautical Engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology. Dr. Kalam was the Project Director of India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III), which successfully injected the Rohini satellite in the near-earth orbit in July 1980.

After working for two decades in the Indian Space Research Organization, (ISRO) and mastering launch vehicle technologies, Dr. Kalam took up the responsibility of developing indigenous guided missiles at the Defence Research and Development Organisation as the Chief Executive of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). He was responsible for the development and operations of AGNI and PRITHVI missiles and for building indigenous capability in critical technologies through networking of multiple institutions. He was the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development from July 1992 to December 1999. During this period he led

the weaponisation of strategic missile systems and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in collaboration with Department of Atomic Energy, which made India a nuclear weapon State. He also gave thrust to self-reliance in defence systems by progressing multiple development tasks and mission projects such as Light Combat Aircraft.

Dr. Kalam has served as the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, in the rank of Cabinet Minister, from November 1999 to November 2001, and was responsible for evolving policies, strategies, and missions for many development applications. Dr. Kalam was also the Chairman, Ex-officio, of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C) and piloted India Millennium Mission 2020.

Dr. Kalam took up academic pursuit as Professor, Technology & Societal Transformation at Anna University, Chennai from November 2001 and was involved in teaching and research tasks. He has written four books, Wings of Fire, India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium, My Journey, and Ignited Minds - Unleashing the Power within India, which have been translated into many Indian languages.

Dr. Kalam has received honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions. He has been awarded prestigious civilian awards, Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990), and the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna (1997). He is a recipient of several other awards and fellow of many professional institutions.

Dr. Kalam became the 11th President of India on 25 July 2002. After five eventful years he demitted office on 25 July 2007. His focus is on transforming India into a developed nation by 2020.



# Missile Man to President: 'Kalam drove people to think'

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was also instrumental in laying the foundation of the rocket launch systems at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) during a nearly two decade stint at ISRO from the late 1960s to 1982.

One of the little known facts about former President A P J Abdul Kalam is that he has a medical invention to his name — a coronary stent built with missile composites that dramatically brought down the cost of heart stents from Rs 55,000 to Rs 10,000 in the mid-1990s. The Kalam-Raju stent to treat coronary artery disease was the result of one of Kalam's distinguishing features — his constant ability to push people to think about innovations for a country strapped for resources and technical know-how. While he was known as the "Missile Man" for his work on missile technologies during his tenures in defence research labs like the Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad, in the 1980s and 1990s, Kalam was also instrumental in laying the foundation of the rocket launch systems at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) during a nearly two decade stint at ISRO from the late 1960s to 1982.

Dr. Kalam's leadership was recognised and fostered by ISRO's second chairman, Prof Satish Dhawan — the man that Kalam considered his guru. "We were all young scientists at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram in the '60s. Dr Kalam was the head of rocket engineering at ISRO and was involved in the development of early sounding rockets like Menaka," said former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan, part of a crop of engineers from the 1960s who rose to the top at ISRO. The SLV 3, the rocket system that has gone on to become the bedrock of the Indian space programme, has been Kalam's biggest contribution to

the Indian space mission, spawning new generation launchers like the Augmented SLV, the Polar SLV and most recently the Geo synchronous SLV. "The scientists who went on to build India's second and third line of rockets had worked with Dr Kalam when he was head of rocket engineering at ISRO. His greatness was that he knew everyone. His connect with people was always great," said Radhakrishnan. "Among scientists, we tend to classify people as the generalists and the super specialists, and he was a person who had a knowledge of totality. He had an ability to drive people to think," he said. Even after he left ISRO, Kalam's views and opinions remained much valued in the organisation. When ISRO was preparing for its maiden mission into deep space with the 2008 moon mission aboard the Chandrayaan 1, it was Kalam who insisted that ISRO, then headed by his protege Dr G Madhavan Nair, must land a probe (the Moon Impact Probe) on the surface of the moon rather than just orbiting the moon. "I think he was a person who could make the impossible look possible and he actually made it possible for ordinary people to dream they could be anybody," said Prof N Balakrishnan, senior aeronautical and computer scientist, a former associate director of the Indian Institute of Science and Kalam's close confidante. "If you look at it, he did not have a PhD from abroad, he did not have a great godfather apart from probably Satish Dhawan. But if he could make it in this country, he gave the hope that anybody could make it," said Prof Balakrishnan, who said he spoke to Kalam at 1 am July 27, 2015, adding that he shared a "father-son" kind of relationship with him.





## Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships for 2014 - 15

August 05, 2015

The prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships for 2014-15 were awarded to 150 high school students from all 25 districts across Sri Lanka by H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, and Mr. Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India, at a special ceremony at the Auditorium of the Ministry of Sports on August 5, 2015.

The Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship, a merit-cum-means based Scholarship instituted in 2006-07 for Sri Lankan students, is awarded annually by the High Commission of India in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka. Recipients receive cash assistance during their two years of 'A' level studies. The High Commission of India also announced an increase in the scholarship amount by 25% from 2015-16. Accordingly, this year's awardees will receive Rs. 24,000 each during their first year of 'A' level, and Rs. 30,000 during their second year.

The 150 students (six each from 25 districts) were selected in May 2015 by a joint selection committee comprising officials from the High Commission of India and the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka, based on performance of the student in the 'O' level examinations and in an interview. The students selected for the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship will also be eligible to apply for various undergraduate scholarships and self-financed schemes awarded by the Government of India. Under these schemes, students can pursue undergraduate courses in various reputed institutes and Universities in India. Most of the students who received this scholarship in the past have gone on to excel in their chosen fields of study at the undergraduate and higher levels.



# Government of India awards contract to construct Civil and Mechanical Engineering complex for Faculty of Engineering, Kilinochchi

August 11, 2015

As part of its development partnership with Sri Lanka in the field of higher education, the Government of India is undertaking a project to construct a Civil and Mechanical Engineering complex for the Faculty of Engineering at the Kilinochchi Campus of the University of Jaffna, at a total cost of SLR 300 million. The project encompasses building construction as well as supply of equipment and furniture, in addition to training and curriculum development. The objective of the project is to create infrastructure facilities in order to provide a conducive learning environment for students, increase student intake, and enhance knowledge and skills of both lecturers and students. The project is being implemented in close consultation with the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka.

In this regard, following a process of competitive bidding, a contract to construct the building complex was signed on September 3, 2015 with M/s. Link Engineering (Pvt.) Ltd for SLR 256 million in the presence of Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India; Mr. P. Ranepura, Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka; Prof. Vasanthi Arasaratnam, Vice Chancellor,

University of Jaffna; Prof. K. Kandasamy, Professor of Physics, University of Jaffna; Mr. Rajavishagan, Deputy Registrar, University of Jaffna; and other officials of the Government of Sri Lanka. The building work includes construction of four blocks with court yard and entrance lobby.

The procurement of equipment and furniture, and training and curriculum development activities, will be taken up subsequently with the remaining SLR 44 million.

Construction of buildings as well as provision of equipment and furniture will be completed within a period of one year, and project implementation will be jointly monitored by the High Commission and the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka.

Government of India is also assisting in the establishment of a Centre for Skill Development for the Faculty of Agriculture at the Kilinochchi Campus of the University of Jaffna, and the contract for that project was signed on August 11, 2015.



# 50+ Indian Companies at the India Expo at BMICH

September 11-13, 2015

India Expo 2015, a multi products and services exhibition being held at BMICH, was inaugurated on 11 September 2015 by Minister for Industry & Commerce of Sri Lanka Hon'ble Rishad Bathiudeen in the presence of the Acting High Commissioner of India Mr. Arindam Bagchi, Chairman (Southern Region) of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) Dr. A. Sakthivel, senior officials of Government of Sri Lanka and members of business community.

Speaking after inauguration, the Hon'ble Minister appreciated FIEO for organizing India Expo and felt that most participating companies would have excellent scope in the Sri Lankan market. During interaction with media, the Acting High Commissioner of India Mr. Arindam Bagchi conveyed that such events help in deepening India-Sri Lanka economic ties. Dr. Sakthivel stated that the Indian companies had come to Sri Lanka not only to exhibit their products but also looking for collaboration with Sri Lankan companies for growing together through joint ventures and partnership.

India Expo 2015 has been organised by FIEO in association with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and the High Commission of

India, Colombo. Around 50 leading Indian companies representing various sectors, including construction and building-related products, apparel and garments, cosmetics, agro products, pharmaceuticals, power and electrical technology are participating in the event. The programme of the event encompasses a three day long exhibition and B2B meetings.

This exhibition would be a platform for Sri Lankan companies to interact with their Indian counterparts and explore opportunities for development of exports, imports and opening new avenues for trade between Sri Lanka and India. India Expo is supported by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka, the Ceylon Nation Chamber of Industries and Sri Lanka Chamber of Small & Medium Industries.

India-Sri Lanka bilateral trade has witnessed a marked upswing in the recent past, with trade figures exceeding US\$ 4.6 billion in 2014, the strong performance has continued in the first half of 2015 and total trade has witnessed an increase of nearly 22% over the same period in 2014. India Expo 2015 is expected to strengthen this trend by fostering linkages between stakeholders.



# Global Conclave on 'Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness'

September 3, 2015



The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) jointly organised a three-day global conclave 'Samvad:Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness', in collaboration with the International Buddhist Federation and the Tokyo Foundation, from 3 to 5 September 2015. Proceedings of the conclave were conducted in the first two days at VIF in New Delhi, while the venue shifted to Bodh Gaya in Bihar on the third day. The conclave was inspired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of highlighting India's civilizational links with world. Not only did the Prime Minister inaugurate the conclave in Delhi but he also went to Bodh Gaya along with the delegates to offer a special prayer for global peace and harmony at Mahabodhi temple, Buddhism's holiest shrine. A pre-recorded message from Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was also played during the inaugural session of the conference.

While Hon'ble Shinzo Abe in an offline message said Japan owed its 'rule of law' to Buddhism, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi emphasized that teachings of Hinduism and Buddhism can provide answers to many of problems the world faces, especially the ones related to conflicts and environmental degradation. Hon'ble Shri Modi's resounding speech underlined the emerging dangers, both to the world and the environment. He stressed the quintessence of resolving conflicts lies in dialogue. Expressing his deep anguish over the rising level of conflicts across societies, the Prime Minister stressed that the theme of dialogue on conflicts needs to shift from an ideological approach to a philosophical one. It was evident from his speech that the world needs a fresh approach to deal with the twin threats of rising conflicts and environmental degradation.

Delegates from over 15 countries, including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, Taiwan, and a few European countries, among

others, participated in the conference. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs hon'ble Kran Rijju and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture, Tourism and MoS for Ministry of Civil Aviation hon'ble Mahesh Sharma, were among other distinguished invitees to the conference.

The conclave on the first day focused squarely on the issue of conflict avoidance. From the discussions held amongst the scholars, it came out loud and clear that the teachings of Gautama Buddha, Swami Vivekananda and other spiritual leaders of Hinduism and Buddhism, especially on inter-religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence, are more relevant today than ever before. Speaker after speaker agreed that



this conclave offered a great opportunity to analyse threats and challenges to the maintenance of world peace and tranquility. There was total consensus that there is need to break away from ideological shackles and start a philosophical debate to develop a global understanding as a means of avoiding conflicts.

Sri Lanka's former President Mrs Chandrika Kumartunga, Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Minoru Kiuchi, Founder of the Art of Living Foundation Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation Ven. Lama Lobzang, Ven. Thich Nhat Tu from Vietnam, Founder of Dharmashree Gita Parivar & Mahirshi Ved Vyas Pratishthan Swami Govind Dev Giri and Shri Swaminathan Gurumurthy, among others, discussed ways and means of avoiding conflicts in a world torn apart by religious fanaticism and ideological bigotry.

The second day witnessed a spirited and composite dialogue among the participants on environmental consciousness being the prime paradigm of socio-cultural cooperation and creative global action. The philosophical underpinnings of Buddhist dharma



were touched upon in a reference to the protection of natural heritage and the pursuit of sustainable growth. The environmental protection could be possible only with such awareness based on our ancient beliefs with respect to the Mother Earth.

With Param Pujya Swami Paramatmananda, Secretary General & Coordinator of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha, India, and Ven. Telo Tulku Rinpoche, Shadjin Lama of the Republic of Kalmyk (Russian Federation) Co-Chairing the session on the second day, Ven. Geshe Jangchup Choeden, Abbot, Ganden Shartse Monastery, Karnataka, India, H. E Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, Minister for Finance, Kingdom of Bhutan, H.E Chuch Phoeurn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia, among other distinguished speakers, discussed extensively on how to protect the environment and the Mother Earth from further onslaught.

In her valedictory address, Hon'ble Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs, Government of India, underlined the linkages between conflict and environment. She also pointed out that while, on one hand, a totalitarian approach where man is at the center was propagated by a large number of western philosophers, the Hindu and the Buddhist

philosophers, on the other hand, remained deeply conscious of the need to preserve nature. The environmental degradation has reached an alarming stage today and if corrective steps are not taken urgently, the future generations will not forgive us, hon'ble Sushma Swaraj cautioned the audience.

In his concluding remarks, General NC Vij, Director, VIF, stated that the conclave not only met all the objectives it had set out to achieve but even went beyond that. Scholars, heads of religious bodies, and other delegates who participated in the conference were aligned to the same thought process. The process initiated by the VIF would be taken further, General Vij assured the audience, while Mr. Masahiro Akiyama, President, the Tokyo Foundation declared that Japan would host the next Hindu Buddhist Samvad (Dialogue) in January 2016. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Most Ven. Lama Lobzang, Secretary General, IBC





## Text of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's address at "Samvad"- Global Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness

September 03, 2015

Most Venerable Sayadaw Dr. Asin Nyanissara, Founder Chancellor, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy , Myanmar; Her Excellency Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka; Mr. Minoru Kiuchi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji; My Ministerial colleague Dr Mahesh Sharma and Kiren Rijju ji; General N.C. Vij, Director Vivekananda International Foundation; Mr.Masahiro Akiyama President, The Tokyo Foundation, Japan; Lama Lobzang; Distinguished religious and spiritual leaders, Venerables from the Maha Sangha, Dharma Gurus,

I am delighted to be here, at the inauguration of Samvad, the Global Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness.

This is truly an esteemed gathering of spiritual leaders, scholars and leaders from several countries of the world where Buddhism is a prevalent way of life.

It is a matter of immense happiness that this conference is being held in India, including in Bodh Gaya. India is the ideal venue to host a symposium of this nature. We in India are proud of the fact that it was from this land that Gautama Buddha gave the world the tenets of Buddhism.

The life of Gautama Buddha illustrates the power of service, compassion and, most importantly, renunciation. He was born into privilege. The hardships he faced were relatively fewer. Yet, with age grew a distinct consciousness about human suffering, about illness, about old age and about death.

He was convinced that material wealth is not the sole goal. Human conflicts repulsed him. And then, he set out, on the path to create a peaceful and compassionate society. In those days, he had the courage and conviction to hold a mirror to the society, and sought to break free from practices and systems seen as regressive.

Gautam Buddha was a revolutionary. He nurtured a faith where a human being is at the core, nothing else. The innermost being of man manifests godliness. In a way, he created a faith without God, and a faith where divinity is not about looking anywhere outside, but about looking within. In three words, Appa Deepo Bhavah or be your own light, Gautam Buddha gave humanity the greatest management lesson. Nothing pained him more than mindless conflict that caused human suffering. Non-violence was integral to his worldview.

The message and teachings of Gautama Buddha resonate loudly and clearly with the major themes chosen for this symposium- the themes of avoiding conflicts, moving towards environmental consciousness and a concept of free and frank dialogue.

The three themes may appear independent but they are not mutually exclusive. Infact, they are mutually dependent and supportive.

The conflict in the first theme is among humans, religions, communities and nation-states, also between non-state actors and states, and even the world. Intolerant non-state actors now control large

territories where they are unleashing barbaric violence on innocent people.

The second conflict is between nature and man, between nature and development, and also between nature and science. These types of conflicts call for dialogue to bring about conflict avoidance – not just ‘give and take’ conflict resolution negotiations as what is happening today.

Ethical values of personal restraint in consumption and environmental consciousness are deeply rooted in Asian philosophical traditions, especially in Hinduism and Buddhism.

Buddhism, along with other faiths, such as Confucianism, Taoism and Shintoism, has undertaken greater responsibility to protect the environment. Hinduism and Buddhism with their well-defined treatises on Mother Earth can help examine the changes in approach that need to be made.

Climate change is a pressing global challenge. It calls for a collective human action and a comprehensive response. In India, faith and Nature have had a deep link since ancient times. Buddhism and environment are deeply co-related.

The Buddhist tradition, in all of its historical and cultural manifestations, encourages greater identification with the natural world because from a Buddhist perspective nothing has a separate existence. The impurities in the environment affect the mind, and the impurities of mind also pollute the environment. In order to purify the environment, we have to purify the mind.

The eco crisis, in fact, is a reflection of imbalance of mind. Lord Buddha, therefore, accorded importance to the need for preserving natural resources, and created tools related to water conservation and forbid the monks from polluting water resources. The nature, forests, trees and the well-being of all beings play a great role in the teachings of Lord Buddha.

I wrote a book ‘Convenient Action’ which was released by the former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. In my book I have shared my experiences of dealing with climate change as the Chief Minister.

Personally, it is my reading of Vedic literature that educated me about the strong bond between humans and Mother Nature. We are all aware of Mahatma Gandhi’s Doctrine of Trusteeship.

In this context, I want to say that we, the present generation, have the responsibility to act as a trustee of the rich natural wealth for the future generations. The issue is not merely about climate change; it is about climate justice. Again I repeat is not the issue of climate change, it is about climate justice.

In my view, the most adversely affected by climate change are the poor and the downtrodden. When a natural disaster strikes, they are hit the hardest. When

there are floods, they are rendered homeless; during a quake, their homes are destroyed; during droughts, they are affected; and during extreme cold too, the homeless suffer the most.

We can’t let climate change keep affecting people in this manner. Which is why I believe the discourse must shift focus from climate change to climate justice.

The third theme — promotion of dialogue – calls for a shift from ideological approach to a philosophic one. Without proper dialogue, neither of the two themes of conflict avoidance is possible, or workable.

The severe limitations in our conflict resolution mechanisms are becoming more and more obvious. We need significant, collective and strategic efforts to prevent bloodshed and violence. It is, thus, no surprise that the world is taking note of Buddhism. This is also a recognition of the historical Asian traditions and values, which can be used to shift the paradigm to conflict avoidance, to move from the path of ideology to philosophy.

The essence of the entire concept of this conference — including the first two themes conflict avoidance and environmental consciousness — is contained in the dialogue part of it which calls for a shift from the “them vs us” ideological approach to philosophic approach. It is necessary to inform the world about the need to shift from ideology — whether religious or secular — to philosophy. When I spoke at the United Nations last year, I briefly mentioned that the world needs to shift from ideological approach to philosophic approach. A day later when I addressed the Council for Foreign Relations, I expanded on this concept a little more. The essence of philosophy is that it is not a closed thought, while ideology is a closed one. So philosophy not only allows dialogue but it is perpetual search of truth through dialogue. The entire Upanishad literature is a compilation of dialogue. Ideology only believes in unabated truth. So ideologies which close the gates for dialogue have the propensity for violence while philosophy seeks to avoid it through dialogue.

Thus, Hindu and Buddhist religions are in that sense more philosophies and not just belief systems.

It is my firm belief that the solution to all problems lies in dialogue. Earlier, it was believed that force indicates power. Now, power must come through the strength of ideas and the effective dialogue. We have seen the adverse effects of war. The first half of the 20th century was witness to the horrors of two world wars.

Now, nature of warfare is changing and the dangers are increasing. What took a hundred thousand men or a prolonged battle can now happen through the click of a button, in a span of minutes.

All of us here have a cardinal duty to ensure that our future generations lead a life of peace, dignity and mutual respect. We need to sow the seeds of a conflict-

free world and, in this endeavour, faiths of Buddhism and Hinduism have a great contribution.

When we talk about dialogue, what kind of dialogue should it be? It is dialogue which produces no anger or retribution. One of the greatest examples of such dialogue was the one between Adi Sankara and Mandana Mishra.

It is worth recalling and describing this ancient example for our modern times. Adi Sankara, a vedantic who did not give high marks for rituals, was a young man, while Mandana Mishra was an elderly scholar and high ritualist who believed even in animal sacrifice.

Adi Sankara wanted to establish through dialogue and debate with the highest authority on ritualism and that rituals were not necessary for attaining Mukti, while Mandana Mishra wanted to prove that Sankara was wrong in dismissing rituals.

This was how, in ancient India, debates on sensitive issues between scholars avoided such issues being settled in streets. Adi Sankara and Mandana Mishra held a debate and Sankara won. But the more important point is not the debate itself but how was the debate was conducted. It is a fascinating story that will ever remain one of the highest forms of debate for all times for humanity.

It was agreed that if Mandana Mishra lost, he would cease to be a householder (gruhasta) and accept sanyasa. If Adi Sankara lost, he would give up his sanyasa and marry and settle down as householder or in gruhasta life. Mandana Mishra, a high scholar, offered to Adi Sankara, who was young and therefore Mishra considered unequal, to choose a referee of his choice. Adi Sankara chose Mandana Mishra's wife, a scholar herself, as the referee! If Mandana Mishra lost, she would lose her husband! But see what she did! She asked both Sankar and Mishra to wear fresh garlands and then begin the debate, and said that the one whose garland loses its freshness would be declared as the loser! Why? Because if one gets angry, the body will develop heat, and, as a result, the garland flowers will lose their freshness in that heat. Anger within is a sign of defeat. On this logic, Mandana Mishra was declared as having lost the debate! And he accepted sanyas and became a disciple of Sankara. This demonstrates the vitality of dialogue and that too dialogue without anger or conflict.

Today, in this august gathering, we are people of different nationalities, with different lifestyles, but what binds us is the fact that the roots of our civilisations are in our shared philosophies, history and heritage. Buddhism and Buddhist heritage have been a uniting and binding factor.

They say that this century is going to be an Asian Century . I am very clear that without embracing the path and ideals shown by Gautam Buddha, this century cannot be an Asian century!



I see Lord Buddha doing to our collective spiritual well-being what global trade did to our collective economic well-being and the digital internet did to our collective intellectual well-being.

I see Lord Buddha in the 21st Century across national borders, across faith systems, across political ideologies, playing the role of a bridge to promote understanding to counsel patience and to enlighten us with tolerance and empathy.

You are visiting a nation that is extremely proud of its Buddhist heritage. My hometown of Vadnagar in Gujarat is one of the many sites where Buddhist relics were found and was one of the places visited by Chinese traveller and chronicler, Xuanzang.

The SAARC region is home to the holy sites of Buddhism; Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar . These sites draw pilgrims from ASEAN nations, as also from China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia and Russia.

My Government is doing everything possible to give an impetus to this Buddhist heritage across India, and India is taking the lead in boosting the Buddhist heritage across Asia. This three-day meet is one such effort.

I hope the next three days are full of vibrant and rich discussions, and we are able to sit together and think about the way ahead towards peace, conflict resolution and a clean and green world.

I look forward to seeing you in Bodh Gaya the day after.

Thank You.

# India to start several ferry services with Sri Lanka

September 24, 2015 - Diresh Jayasuriya

Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has underlined the need for seamless connectivity in the SAARC region and we are keen to start several ferry services between India and Sri Lanka, said Shri Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India.

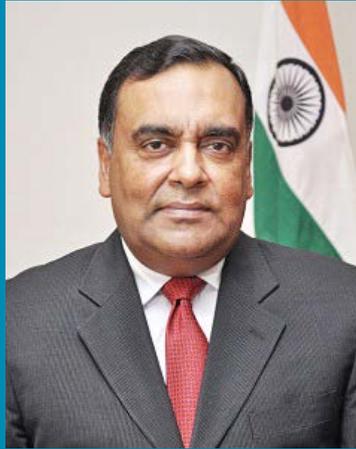
Speaking at the India-Sri Lanka Maritime Forum at Hotel Galadari on September 24, 2015, he said that Maritime links contribute to enhanced connectivity in the region.

"We are keen to re-commence ferry service between Colombo and Tuticorin. There is also substantial interest in commencing ferry/cruise services between Colombo and Kochi, continuing on to Male in Maldives. We support such endeavors."

"Another sector where we are working to commence ferry services is the Talaimannar-Rameswaram sector."

"The railway track upto Talaimannar has been rehabilitated under the Indian Line. Once ferry services recommence between Talaimannar and Rameswaram, Sri Lankans can travel from Hambantota in South Sri Lanka to the Northern tip of India by a combination of rail and ferry service."

"Rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour project is being carried out by the Dredging Corporation of India and completed in May 2013. Once KKS Harbour is fully rehabilitated, it could be used as a commercial port facilitating movement of cargo and passengers between Southern India and Northern Sri Lanka, reviving a maritime link that flourished since time immemorial."



"The Government of Sri Lanka plans to develop Trincomalee as a petroleum hub. India is willing to work for establishment of special economic and manufacturing zones anchored by Indian investments in areas like light engineering products, automobile components and pharma, in Trincomalee."

"Another area where India and Sri Lanka are working closely is the maritime security domain, where our convergent interests have led to fruitful cooperation," he said.

"The Colombo Port is a major transshipment hub for cargo originating from or destined to India. We are happy to see this and are willing to contribute to the development of Colombo Port," he said.

## Vital Sri Lanka – India Relations on Sound Footing as Never Before – Indian Deputy Security Advisor

September 1, 2015



Dr Arvind Gupta, Indian Deputy National Security Advisor contributing to the Session 1 on the theme 'Nature of Threats Affecting the National Security of a Nation' of the 'Defence Seminar – 2015' at Colombo Galadari Hotel opined that the ever increasing India – Sri Lanka relations are now on a sound footing and Sri Lanka is a vital component in the periphery as regional development is taking root.

Dr Gupta basing his address to the session on five major areas; i.e. (1) Role of Economic Powers, (2) Reforms in Security, (3) Terrorism, (4) Fragile Economy,

(5) Competition for Resources, added that considering emerging trends, one need to reform the effectiveness of the emerging economic powers. Similarly, maritime security such as piracy, safety and communication are new facets which we need to look at closely if we were to keep our economies as well as Indian Ocean stable.

In the same vein, terrorism still remains a major challenge as young crowds are getting more and more radicalized with the speedily growing cyber space with ample openings for training. Therefore, without ignoring good old methods of terrorism, cross-border unified preparedness and alertness need to be strengthened, he said.

Crash of stock markets, financial crises, etc are common elsewhere while a lot of economic growth is taking place in Asia. Similarly, as development goes on water resources have emerged as another challenge. More and more crises can be expected in the future as the need for cooperation is fast growing, he said.

He also underlined the significance of fostering Sri Lanka – India relations further which of course took place with the arrival of Sri Lanka's President in India and Prime Minister Shri Modi's visit to Sri Lanka, he pointed out.

# Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India, Shri Ajit Kumar delivering India's explanation of Vote after the vote on 1st October, 2015 at the 30th Session of the UN Human Rights Council at Geneva

October 01, 2015



India's Explanation of Vote after the Vote delivered by Ambassador/PR of India, Mr. Ajit Kumar

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to make this explanation of vote after the vote in connection with the resolution titled "promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka", that was adopted by the Council by consensus under the Agenda Item 2.

The Consensus Resolution, co-sponsored by Sri Lanka, underscores the collective desire of Sri Lankans

expressed in elections earlier this year for change, reconciliation and unity and the rejection of extremist voices.

Mr. President,

As Sri Lanka's closest neighbour, India cannot remain untouched by developments in that country. India has always supported efforts to preserve Sri Lanka's character as a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious society in which all citizens, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, can live in equality, safety and harmony, and prosper and fulfil their aspirations within a united Sri Lanka.

Towards this direction, we reiterate our firm belief that the meaningful devolution of political authority through the implementation of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution of Sri Lanka and building upon it would greatly help the process of national reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

We hope that with the sagacity and political will of its leadership and the support of its people, Sri Lanka will achieve genuine reconciliation and development.



# Government of India awards contract to establish Centre for Skill Development for Faculty of Agriculture, Kilinochchi

August 11, 2015

As part of its development partnership with Sri Lanka in the field of higher education, the Government of India is undertaking a project to establish a Centre for Skill Development for the Faculty of Agriculture at the Kilinochchi Campus of the University of Jaffna, at a total cost of SLR 300 million. The project encompasses building construction as well as supply of equipment and furniture, in addition to training and curriculum development. The objective of the project is to create infrastructure facilities in order to provide a conducive learning environment for students, increase student intake, and enhance knowledge and skills of both lecturers and students in the field of agricultural science. The project is being implemented in close consultation with the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka.

In this regard, following a process of competitive bidding, a contract to construct the building complex was signed on August 11, 2015 with M/s. Link Engineering (Pvt.) Ltd for SLR 234.50 million in the

presence of Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India; Mr. P. Ranepura, Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka; Prof. Vasanthi Arasaratnam, Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna; Dr. (Mrs) Mikunthan, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna; Mr. Rajavishagan, Deputy Registrar, University of Jaffna; and other officials of the Government of Sri Lanka. The building construction work includes construction of an auditorium, lecture halls, sports complex, computer centre, library and toilet blocks.

The procurement of equipment and furniture, and training and curriculum development activities, will be taken up subsequently with the remaining SLR 65 million.

Construction of buildings as well as provision of equipment and furniture will be completed within a period of one year, and project implementation will be jointly monitored by the High Commission and the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka.





# GSLV Successfully Launches India's Latest Communication Satellite GSAT-6

August 27, 2015

In its ninth flight (GSLV-D6) conducted today, (August 27, 2015), India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, equipped with the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), successfully launched GSAT-6, the country's latest communication satellite, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The achieved orbit is very close to the intended one. The launch took place from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, the spaceport of India. This was the fifth developmental flight of GSLV and the third to carry the indigenous CUS. GSLV-D6 was intended to further test and qualify the CUS developed by ISRO.

In its oval shaped GTO, the GSAT-6 satellite is now orbiting the Earth with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 168 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 35,939 km with an orbital inclination of 20.01 deg with respect to the equator.

After a smooth 29 hour countdown, the 416 tonne, 49 m tall GSLV-D6 carrying the 2117 kg GSAT-6, lifted off at 16:52 Hrs IST. About seventeen minutes after lift-off, GSAT-6 was successfully placed in GTO.

At 4.8 seconds before the countdown reached zero, the four liquid propellant strap-on stages of GSLV-D6, each carrying 42 tonne of liquid propellants, were ignited. At count zero and after confirming the normal performance of all the four strap-on motors, the

mammoth 139 tonne solid propellant first stage core motor was ignited and GSLV lifted off. The major phases of the flight included the core motor burn-out, strap on burn-out, ignition of the second stage, separation of the core motor together with strap-ons, payload fairing separation, second stage separation, CUS ignition and its timely shut down after satisfactory performance. Following this, GSAT-6 separated from CUS about 17 minutes after launch.

Soon after its injection into GTO, the two solar arrays of GSAT-6 were automatically deployed and the Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took control of GSAT-6.

In the coming days, GSAT-6's orbit will be raised from its present GTO to the final circular Geostationary Orbit (GSO) by firing the satellite's Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) in stages. The satellite will be commissioned into service after the completion of orbit raising operations, deployment of its 6 m wide sieve shaped unfurlable antenna, the satellite's positioning in its designated orbital slot of 83 degree East longitude in the GSO and in-orbit testing of its communication payloads.

Today's flight of GSLV underscores the success of ISRO in mastering the highly complex cryogenic rocket propulsion technology.

# PSLV Successfully Launches India's Multi Wavelength Space Observatory ASTROSAT

September 28, 2015

In its thirty first flight (PSLV-C30) conducted on September 28, 2015, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched ASTROSAT, the country's Multi Wavelength Space Observatory along with six foreign customer satellites into a 644.6 X 651.5 km orbit inclined at an angle of 6 deg to the equator. The achieved orbit is very close to the intended one. This was the thirtieth consecutive success for PSLV.

PSLV was launched today in its heaviest 'XL' version with six strap-on motors of the first stage. The launch took place from the First Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, the spaceport of India.

The 320 tonne, 45 m tall PSLV-C30 carrying seven satellites including the 1513 kg ASTROSAT, lifted off at 10:00 Hrs IST. About twenty two minutes after lift-off, ASTROSAT was successfully placed in orbit and separated from the fourth stage of PSLV-C30. The separation of all the six co-passenger satellites was completed in the subsequent three minutes. The seven satellites carried by PSLV-C30 together weighed about 1631 kg at lift-off.

After a 50 hour smooth count down, the 320 ton PSLV-C28 was launched with the ignition of its first stage. The important flight events included the ignition and separation of the strap-ons, separation of the first stage, ignition of the second stage, separation of the payload fairing after the vehicle had cleared the dense atmosphere, second stage separation, third stage ignition and third stage separation, fourth stage ignition and fourth stage cut-off.

Through 30 successful flights during 1994-2015 period, PSLV has launched a total of 84 satellites including the seven satellites successfully launched today. The vehicle has repeatedly proved its reliability and versatility by successfully launching satellites into a variety of orbits including polar Sun Synchronous, Geosynchronous Transfer and Low Earth orbits of small inclination thereby emerging as the workhorse launch vehicle of India.

So far, 51 satellites have been launched by PSLV for customers from abroad. Today's launch of six co-passenger satellites by PSLV-C30 was facilitated by Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of



the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a government of India Company under the Department of Space (DOS).

Soon after its separation from PSLV-C30, the two solar arrays of ASTROSAT were automatically deployed and the Spacecraft Control Centre at the Mission Operations Complex of ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) at Bangalore took control of ASTROSAT.

ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory. This scientific satellite mission endeavours for a more detailed understanding of our universe. ASTROSAT is designed to observe the universe in the Visible, Ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum simultaneously with the help of its five payloads.

ASTROSAT was realised by ISRO with the participation of all major astronomy institutions including Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) of Pune, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) at Mumbai, Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIAP) and Raman Research Institute (RRI) of Bangalore as well as some of the Universities in India and two institutions from Canada and the UK.

In the coming days, ASTROSAT will be brought to the final operational configuration and all its five scientific payloads will be thoroughly tested before the commencement of regular operations.

Today's successful flight of PSLV further underscores the reliability and versatility of PSLV as well as the robustness of its design.





# India's deadliest naval warship INS Kochi commissioned in Mumbai

September 30, 2015

Naval warship INS Kochi, the stealth guided missile destroyers, was commissioned on September 30, 2015 by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar

Naval warship INS Kochi, the stealth guided missile destroyers, was commissioned today by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. INS Kochi is the second ship of the Kolkata-class (Project 15A) Guided Missile Destroyers. The contract for three ships of Kolkata class was signed as a follow-on of the legendary Delhi-class Destroyers, which were commissioned into the Navy more than a decade ago, a defence spokesperson said. Designed by the Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design, and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in Mumbai, the ship is christened after the vibrant port city of Kochi. Although conceived as follow-on of the earlier Delhi class, this ship is vastly superior and has major advancements in weapons and sensors. The ship incorporates new design concepts for improved survivability, stealth, sea-keeping and manoeuvrability

With a displacement of 7,500 tons, the majestic ship spanning 164 metres in length and 17 metres at the beam, is propelled by four gas turbines and designed to achieve speeds in excess of 30 knots.

The ship has a complement of about 40 officers and

350 sailors. The accommodation and living spaces have been designed with special emphasis on ergonomics and habitability. Enhanced stealth features have been achieved through shaping of hull and use of radar-transparent deck fittings. A bow mounted sonar dome, the second of its kind in an indigenous naval platform, has been introduced to enhance sonar acoustic performance, the spokesperson said. INS Kochi is packed with an array of state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, with a significant indigenous component. The ship has many lethal weapons to her credit which include the successful fitment of vertically launched missile system for long distance engagement of shore and sea-based targets.

The ship is one of the few warships of the world and the second in the Indian Navy to have Multi-Function Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar to provide target data to Long Range Surface to Air Missile system. The MF STAR and LR SAM systems are jointly developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. To protect against incoming air borne and surface threats, at medium and close in range, the ship has 76 mm and 30 mm gun mounts. The ship can be classified as a 'Network of Networks' as it is equipped with Ship Data Network (SDN), Combat Management System (CMS), Automatic Power Management System (APMS) and Auxiliary Control System (ACS).

## “Bandish Fusion”

August 14, 2015

“Bandish Fusion” musical programme by Pandit Subhen Chatterjee and group to celebrate the 69th Independence Day of India



## Sri Lankan Emotional Dance

August 28, 2015

Sri Lankan Emotional Dance - A Contemporary Dance Act presented by Nilan Maligaspe and the Arpeggio Creative Dance Academy



Reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Y K Sinha, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka & Mrs. Girija Sinha to greet the Indian and Sri Lankan Cricket Teams



# 69th Independence Day of India

## Celebrations in pictures

