

Visits by Prime Minister to foreign countries

1284. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited many countries for improving bilateral ties during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of the areas of cooperation/trade identified and MoU signed during the bilateral visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Information in respect of visits by the Prime Minister has been compiled and given in Statement.

Statement***Prime Minister's visit to foreign countries during the last three months***

Country visited with dates	Details of discussions, outcome and areas of cooperation/trade identified	MoUs concluded during the visit
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Seychelles (March 10-11, 2015)	Prime Minister held meetings with the President of Seychelles and addressed a public reception. During the official bilateral talks, a wide range of issues of cooperation, including blue economy, sustainable development, trade, defence etc. were discussed. The visit will promote trade and economic relations with Seychelles, including in the fields of blue economy, tourism, renewable energy etc.	The following agreements were signed during the visit: (i) Agreement on development of facilities at Assumption Island; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Renewable Energy Cooperation; (iii) MoU on Cooperation in Hydrography; and (iv) Protocol on Sale of Navigational Charts/Electronic Navigational Charts.
Mauritius (March 11-12, 2015)	Prime Minister held meetings with the President and the Prime Minister of Mauritius. The Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Communication, Technology and Innovation called on the Prime Minister.	The following agreements were signed during the visit : (i) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on development of sea and air transportation facilities at Agalega Island;

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	<p>Prime Minister addressed the National Assembly of Mauritius as well as a civic reception. PM also participated in the events for the commissioning of Barracuda Offshore Patrol Vessel and the commencement of the construction of the building of the World Hindi Secretariat. Discussions included a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including maritime security, ocean economy, sustainable development, trade etc. The visit has helped in raising the strategic and close relationship between India and Mauritius to a new level. Moreover, it will give a new thrust to development cooperation between India and Mauritius. It will also enhance economic and trade relations, including in the fields of ocean economy, export of mangoes etc. Further, the visit will promote closer people to people contacts, tourism and cultural cooperation.</p>	<p>(ii) MoU on cooperation in Ocean Economy;</p> <p>(iii) MoU on cooperation in traditional systems of medicines and homeopathy;</p> <p>(iv) Cultural Exchange Programme for 2015-18; and</p> <p>(v) Protocol on importation of mangoes from India.</p>
<p>Sri Lanka (March 13-14, 2015)</p>	<p>Prime Minister visited Sri Lanka on an invitation extended by President of Sri Lanka. Prime Minister met President Sirisena, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and Sri Lankan leaders across the political spectrum. PM addressed the Sri Lankan Parliament and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. Discussions during the state visit of Prime Minister to Sri Lanka covered a wide range of issues of mutual interest, covering political developments, strengthening economic</p>	<p>During the visit of the Prime Minister, the following agreements were signed:</p> <p>(i) Agreement on waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official passports;</p> <p>(ii) Agreement on Customs Cooperation,</p> <p>(iii) MoU on Youth Development; and</p> <p>(iv) MoU on Construction of Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium in Ruhuna University in Matara.</p>

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	<p>and commercial ties, development cooperation projects, and deepening of maritime security cooperation. Prime Minister conveyed India's sincere support and good wishes for Sri Lanka's new journey of peace, reconciliation and progress. Prime Minister reaffirmed that India stands with Sri Lanka in its efforts to build a future that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of society, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, for a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity in a united Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan side briefed the Indian side on recent steps taken in this regard. Prime Minister also declared that early and full implementation of the 13th Amendment and going beyond it would contribute to this process. The problems of fishermen were also discussed during the talks. It was pointed out that this was a complex issue involving livelihood and humanitarian concerns on both sides, and that India and Sri Lanka need to find a long term solution. Both sides agreed that representatives of Fishermen Associations of the two countries would meet soon. The visit has promoted greater understanding and bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka</p>	
<p>Singapore (March 29, 2015)</p>	<p>Prime Minister visited Singapore on 29 March, 2015 to attend the state funeral of Singapore's first Prime Minister Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, who</p>	<p>No MoU was signed.</p>

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	<p>passed away on 23 March, 2015.</p> <p>During the visit, Prime Minister met senior Singapore leader Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Mr. Tharman Shanmugarathnam.</p> <p>On the sidelines, Prime Minister also met Israeli President, Cambodian Prime Minister, Australian Prime Minister and former US President Bill Clinton who also attended the state funeral.</p> <p>The visit of the Prime Minister to attend the state funeral service was highly appreciated by Singapore Government and the people of Singapore.</p>	
France (April 9-12, 2015)	<p>During his visit to France, Prime Minister held fruitful discussions with the political leadership of France on a wide range of issues of bilateral, regional and global interest. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation in strategic sectors, especially defence, space, civil nuclear, security; expanding trade and investment ties; cooperation in science and technology; and increasing exchanges in cultural, educational and tourism sectors. Prime Minister also interacted with senior business executives especially in priority sectors of infrastructure and defence and highlighted the many new opportunities available to them in India through 'Make in India'</p>	<p>The following MoUs/Letter of Intent/Agreement/Administrative Arrangement/other documents were signed during the visit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MoU between L and T and AREVA (Manufacturing of critical components) 2. Pre-engineering agreements between NPCIL and Areva (US\$16 MM) 3. MoU between ISRO and CNES on Megha Tropiques 4. MOU between ISRO, CNES and ONERA for Ka-band propagation experiment over Indian tropical region 5. Programme between ISRO and French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES)

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	<p>programme and other flagship initiatives.</p> <p>The visit successfully reinforced one of India's most long-standing and trusted strategic partnerships in Europe. It upgraded the Indo-French Strategic Partnership through landmark bilateral agreements in defence, nuclear and space cooperation as well as 13 other agreements in several priority areas for India's development.</p> <p>Important outcomes of the visit are outlined below :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the defence sector, the stalled MMRCAs negotiations saw a breakthrough in the form of a decision to acquire 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition from France on better terms than agreed before, to meet India's operational requirements. • In the nuclear sector, an MoU was signed between Larsen and Toubro and AREVA to increase localization for the Jaitapur project and to facilitate transfer of technology and development of an indigenous nuclear energy industry in India. A Pre-Engineering Agreement between NPCIL and AREVA was also signed to clarify technical aspects of the Jaitapur nuclear power project so that the companies concerned can move in the direction of a concrete and viable techno-commercial package. 	<p>6. MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India and French Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Public Education and Community Life</p> <p>7. MoU on cooperation in the field of renewable energy between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, Government of France</p> <p>8. Railway protocol between Indian Ministry of Railways and French National Railways (SNCF)</p> <p>9. Guarantee Agreement with AFD Financing of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)</p> <p>10. Administrative Arrangement in the field of Cultural Heritage</p> <p>11. Letter of Intent on Tourism Cooperation</p> <p>12. Letter of Intent (LoI) between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and National Institute of Preventive Archaeological Research (INRAP)</p> <p>13. MOU between School of Planning and Architecture,</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the space sector, three important agreements were signed between ISRO and the French Space Agency CNES that include cooperation in joint fabrication and launch of satellites and joint planetary exploration. • Thirteen other agreements were signed to support India's development initiatives in areas like railway infrastructure, renewable energy, skill development, biotechnology, research and development, urban heritage preservation, tourism promotion, student exchanges, sports and ayurveda. • Apart from these, several important announcements were made in the areas of solar energy, high speed rail links, smart city development etc. including France's announcement of enhanced contribution of €1 billion for sustainable development programmes in India, India's announcement of France's inclusion in the Electronic Visa on Arrival scheme and a mutually beneficial internship programme that allows Indian students two year residency permits to acquire professional experience in France. Further, Indian Railways and the French National Railways (SNCF) agreed to co-finance an 	<p>Delhi and National Architecture Institute in Paris, France.</p> <p>14. VIE scheme to allow Indian students in France and French students in India to stay for a period of 24 months.</p> <p>15. Letter of Intent on Ayurveda between Ministry of Ayush and University of Strasbourg</p> <p>16. MoU between National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), India and the National Commission for Vocational Qualifications (Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle – CNCD)</p> <p>17. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology between Department of Science and Technology of India and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)</p> <p>18. MoU between Department of Biotechnology of India and CNRS and UPMC on Collaboration for establishment of a National Institute of Marine Biology and Biotechnology in India.</p>

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	<p>execution study by the French Railways for semi-high speed project on upgradation of the Delhi-Chandigarh line and for redevelopment of Ambala and Ludhiana Railway Stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visit also resulted in a clear intent to scale up cooperation in the area of counter terrorism and security. President Hollande's public expression of spontaneous indignation at the release of the Mumbai accused Zakhiur Rehman Lakhvi by Pakistan and reiteration of France's support to India's permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council underlined this. 	
Germany (April 12-14, 2015)	<p>Prime Minister visited Germany at the invitation of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. Prime Minister inaugurated the Hannover Messe Trade Fair 2015, at which India was Partner Country. Prime Minister also visited Berlin for bilateral meetings.</p> <p>During his visit, the Prime Minister held discussions with the Chancellor of Germany in both Hannover and Berlin. Prime Minister also had separate meetings with the Vice Chancellor and Minister of Economics and Energy Mr. Sigmar Gabriel and Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier. PM also participated in a Roundtable with CEOs of German companies and held meetings with</p>	<p>No MoU was signed during the visit. However, two MoUs were signed prior to the visit in the areas of Earth Sciences and Science Communication.</p> <p>Three Government to Government Letters of Intent/Joint Declaration of Intent were signed during the Hannover Messe in the fields of renewable energy, urban development and skills development. The details are as follows:</p> <p>(i) Letter of Intent between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Germany and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy,</p>

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	<p>selected CEOs in Hannover and Berlin. In his discussions with the German Chancellor and other leaders, PM exchanged views on upgrading and further strengthening the Strategic Partnership between India and Germany. PM referred to the new opportunities for cooperation through “Make in India”, “Swachh Bharat”, “Digital India” and other initiatives. Prime Minister and Chancellor Merkel agreed to take specific steps before the next Summit Meeting in October to advance collaboration in identified sectors like Manufacturing, Urban and Smart City Development, Clean Ganga Mission, Railways, Renewable Energy, Urban Waste and Water Management, Skills Development, Education, Environment, Language and Science and Technology. The leaders also discussed issues of mutual interest in foreign policy. Prime Minister’s interactions with the political leadership of Germany and business leaders have assured German industries of the Indian Government’s sincere commitment to provide a fair, transparent and predictable business environment. The visit succeeded in accomplishing the central objective of showcasing the promise and potential of a resurgent India and established a robust roadmap for making Germany a partner of choice in key areas of mutual interest.</p>	<p>Government of India on Indo-German Solar Partnership.</p> <p>(ii) Joint Declaration of Intent on Sustainable Urban Development between the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India and the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Reactor Safety.</p> <p>(iii) Letter of Intent between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Germany and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of Government of India on Indo-German Skill Development Project.</p>

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Canada (April 14-16, 2015)	<p>Prime Minister held detailed discussions with Canadian Prime Minister to assess the full spectrum of bilateral relations and exchanged perspectives on a range of regional and international issues of mutual interest.</p> <p>The visit elevated the bilateral relations to a strategic partnership. Government of India has taken steps and measures to strengthen cooperation in the areas of economy, trade and investment, Civil nuclear cooperation, energy, education and skill development, agriculture, defence and security, science, technology, innovation and space, culture, people-to-people ties, regional and global issues.</p>	<p>The following MoUs were signed during the visit :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MoU on Procurement of Uranium Ore Concentrate between Department of Atomic Energy and M/s. CAMECO Inc. Canada. 2. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Outer Space between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA). 3. MoU on technical cooperation in rail transportation between Ministry of Railways and Department of Transport of Canada 4. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Colleges and Institutes, Canada. 5. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Automotive and Agriculture sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology. 6. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Hydrocarbon sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and College of New Caledonia.

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		<p>7. Sector Skill Council MoU for IT, Telecom and Electronics between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Information and Communication Technology Council.</p> <p>8. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Healthcare sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Bow Valley College (BVC).</p> <p>9. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Apparel and Textiles sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology.</p> <p>10. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Hydrocarbon sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and The Board of Governors of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (“SAIT Polytechnic”).</p> <p>11. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Sports sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Bow Valley College (BVC) and Camosun College.</p>

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		<p>12. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Automotive Sector and Construction sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology.</p> <p>13. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Water sector and Construction sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Fleming College, Canada.</p> <p>14. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Aviation Sector – Technical between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology.</p> <p>15. MoU for collaboration in Skill Development for Aviation – Non Technical and Healthcare – Non Technical and Healthcare sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology, Toronto, Canada.</p> <p>16. Sector Skill Council MoU for Green Jobs sector between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Environmental Careers Organization of Canada (ECO Canada).</p>