

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) and (b) During the visit of President Obama to India in January 2015, President Obama reaffirmed his support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member, and both India and the US committed to ensuring that the Security Council continues to play an effective role in maintaining international peace and security as envisioned in the United Nations Charter.

During the first Strategic and Commercial Ministerial Dialogue held in Washington DC on September 22, 2015, the US reaffirmed its support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member. Both sides committed to ensuring that the Security Council continues to play an effective role in maintaining international peace and security as envisioned in the UN Charter. Both sides noted they are committed to continued engagement on Security Council reform in the UN Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council Reform.

(c) India actively continues its efforts for reform of the UN and becoming a permanent member in an expanded UN Security Council. India remains engaged bilaterally with other UN member states as well as at various multilateral fora towards securing India's permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UNSC. These encompass actively campaigning for UNSC reform through the G4 forum (Group of Four – India, Japan, Brazil and Germany), the L.69 Group (cross regional grouping of developing countries) and in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) process currently underway at the United Nations.

(d) Under the Agenda item 'Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters', the UN General Assembly, in the 69th Session, by its consensus Decision of 14 September 2015 decided to further build on the positions of and proposals made by Member States reflected in the text and its annex circulated by the President of the General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015.

Agreement made in BRICS Summit

1305. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has visited Central Asia and attended Brazil,

Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of discussion had and bilateral agreement made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) Yes. Prime Minister visited Central Asia from 6 -8 July, 2015 and 10-13 July, 2015 and Ufa, Russia on 8-9 July, 2015 to attend BRICS Summit.

(b) Central Asia: PM had extensive bilateral meetings with Presidents of Central Asian countries on wide range of bilateral issues as well as regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The discussions also focussed on cooperation in the field of defence, connectivity, energy, agriculture, trade and investment, health, information technology, science and technology and culture. A total of 21 agreements were signed during the visit in diverse fields including defence, nuclear, railways, culture, elections, human resource development and tourism. A list of agreements signed during the visit is given in the Statement (*See below*).

BRICS Summit: The BRICS Summit was held under the theme “BRICS Partnership-a powerful Factor of Global Development”. The issues discussed at the BRICS Summit included UN Reform, IMF Reform, WTO, G20, regional and global political issues, terrorism, New Development Bank (NDB), BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), cooperation in ICTs and other issues relating to Intra-BRICS Cooperation. The key outcomes of the 7th BRICS Summit include an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, an MoU on the Creation of a Joint BRICS Website and an MoU under the BRICS Inter-Bank Mechanism on Cooperation with the NDB. The Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership was also adopted at the Ufa Summit.

Statement

List of Agreements signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Central Asia.

Uzbekistan (6-7 July, 2015)

- i. Agreement in the field of tourism
- ii. Protocol on cooperation between the Foreign Ministries
- iii. Programme on Cultural Cooperation

Kazakhstan (7-8 July, 2015)

- i. Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons
 - ii. Agreement on Defence and Military Technical Cooperation
-

-
- iii. MoU on cooperation on Physical Culture and Sports
 - iv. MoU on technical cooperation in the field of Railways
 - v. Contract for sale and purchase of natural uranium concentrates between Kazatomprom and DAE

Turkmenistan (10-11 July, 2015)

- i. MoU on Supply of Chemical Products between Indian PSU RCF and Turkmen State concern 'Turkmenhimiya'
- ii. MoU between the Foreign Service Institute, MEA and the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan
- iii. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Sports
- iv. Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology for the Period 2015-17
- v. MoU on Cooperation in Yoga and Traditional Medicine
- vi. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism
- vii. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Defence

Kyrgyz Republic (11-12 July, 2015)

- i. MoU between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic (The Centre for Standardization and Meterology/CSM)
- ii. MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Elections between the Election Commission of India and the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic
- iii. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Arts, Youth, Sports and Mass Media.
- iv. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Defence Cooperation

Tajikistan (12-13 July, 2015)

- i. Programme of Cooperation in the field of Arts and Culture for the period 2016-18
 - ii. Exchange of Note Verbale for setting up of computer labs in 37 schools of Tajikistan.
-