

## Prime Minister's Visit to US

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to US during 26-30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 was a milestone in diplomatic and economic relations, with engagements ranging from Persons of Indian origin in Madison Square to meeting with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. PM had a packed schedule for all five days containing as many as 35 assignments. On the sidelines of UN General Assembly address, PM held overseas bilateral talks. The second part of the visit included bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama at Washington. After the meeting both the leaders issued a Vision Statement and came out with a Joint Statement.

### Highlights of Indo-US bi-lateral Talks

- India and US have committed to a new mantra for the relationship, "ChaleinSaathSaath: Forward Together We Go."
- The two countries agreed to establish an Indo-U.S. Investment Initiative led by the Ministry of Finance and the Department of Treasury, with special focus on capital market development and financing of infrastructure.
- They pledged to establish an Infrastructure Collaboration Platform convened by the Ministry of Finance and the Department of Commerce to enhance participation of U.S. companies in infrastructure projects in India.
- The two countries agreed to establish a high-level Intellectual Property (IP) Working Group with appropriate decision-making and technical-level meetings as part of the Trade Policy Forum.
- Both the countries committed to facilitate the actions necessary to increase trade another fivefold from the present \$100 billion.
- Both the nations have committed to hold public-private discussions in early 2015 under the Commercial Dialogue on new areas of cooperation, including innovation in advanced manufacturing. In order to share best practices in manufacturing and work toward greater harmonization of standards, the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership program will start a dialogue with Indian counterparts.
- They also committed to a new partnership to advance the Prime Minister's goal of improved access to clean water and sanitation for all. USAID, through the Urban India Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Alliance, will serve as knowledge partner to help leverage private and civil society innovation, expertise, and technology.
- The leaders agreed to launch a new phase of the India-U.S. Vaccine Action Program to develop affordable vaccines for dengue, malaria, and tuberculosis, and the establishment of an adjuvant development centre.
- The two leaders agreed to initiate an annual U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership in early 2015.
- Both the nations have established a Contact Group on advancing the implementation of civil nuclear energy cooperation in order to realize early their shared goal of delivering electricity from U.S.-built nuclear power plants in India.
- India and US agreed to strengthen and expand the highly successful U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) through a series of priority initiatives, including a new Energy Smart Cities Partnership to promote efficient urban energy infrastructure; a new program to scale-up renewable energy integration into India's power grid; cooperation to support India's efforts to upgrade its alternative energy institutes and to develop new innovation centres; an expansion of the Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE) programme to unlock additional private sector investment and accelerate the deployment of cost-effective, super-efficient appliances; and the formation of a new Clean Energy Finance Forum to promote investment and trade in clean energy projects.
- The President and Prime Minister committed to continue work towards India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group. The President affirmed that India meets MTCR requirements and is ready for membership in the NSG.
- Both the nations have agreed renew U.S.-India Defence Relationship-2005 Framework for ten more years and directed their defence teams to develop plans for more ambitious programs and activities.

- United States agreed to cooperate with India's planned National Defence University. They also committed to enhancing exchanges of civilian and military intelligence and consultation.
- The two sides signed a charter that establishes a NASA-ISRO Mars Working Group to investigate enhanced cooperation between the two countries in Mars exploration.

### **Some other Highlights of the PM's Engagement:**

#### **PM's Meeting with Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the United Nations**

During the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of involving nations which contribute troops to UN peacekeeping missions, in the decision-making process. He also emphasized the urgent need for UN reform, as the organization approaches its 70th anniversary.

#### **PM's Meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister**

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

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

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

#### **PM's Meeting with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh**

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

#### **PM's Meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal**

In the meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal, the focus was on implementation of decisions taken during the Prime Minister's recent visit. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the progress made.

#### **PM's Meeting with the President of Sri Lanka**

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

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

Terming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with the top business leaders in the United States of America (US) as a 'major game changer', Dr. A Didar Singh, secretary general of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry ( FICCI) said that the Prime Minister's move is a real strong signal to bring back the business confidence for major companies around the world.

"It's a real strong signal to bring back the business confidence for major companies around the world. I think he wants to convince them that it is worthwhile to look at the tremendous potential that India has as a market, as a democracy and as a stable place where business can happen," he added.

**(Source: M/o EA)**