Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited United Arab Emirates: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited United Arab Emirates on 16-17 August 2015. It was the first Prime Ministerial visit in over three decades. Prime Minister held talks with the UAE leadership “on ways to enhance bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation and exchanged views on a variety of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister visited Masdar City where he addressed the UAE business community. He also visited Sheikh Zayed Mosque and ICAD residential City, a labour camp housing about one lakh migrant workers from India and other countries of the subcontinent.

Prime Minister also addressed more than 50000 Indians at the Dubai Cricket Stadium.

The Prime Minister’s historic to the UAE has redefined India and UAE bilateral relationship and has elevated it to a strategic partnership. During the visit India and UAE issued a joint statement which can be seen at Embassy’s website (http://www.indembassyuae.org/joint-statement-between-the-united-arab-emirates-and-india)

Minister of Foreign Affairs of United Arab Emirates visit to India: His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of United Arab Emirates lead a delegation, including senior officials and captains of industry to India for the 11th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on Technical and Economic Cooperation, held on 02-03 September, 2015 in New Delhi. The Meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister of India and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of UAE. During the meeting India and UAE discussed a variety of bilateral issues including trade, investment and cooperation in new areas including defence production, infrastructure, security, counter-terrorism, energy security and medium and small enterprises; scientific collaboration in the area such as space and renewable energy, sustainable development, environment, arid agriculture, desert ecology, urban development and advanced healthcare.
India and UAE have historically enjoyed close and friendly relations marked by high-level visits, commercial exchanges and people-to-people contacts. Geographical proximity, historical trade links, cultural affinities and growing cooperation in key areas of mutual interest, including, energy security, trade and investment, infrastructure development projects, petrochemicals, education and culture continue to strengthen and deepen this relationship.

**India Nepal signed Petroleum Pipe-line Agreement:** Indian and Nepal signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 31st August 2015 for construction of the 41-km Raxaul (India) – Amlekhgunj (Nepal) petroleum pipeline with Indian assistance. Thirty-nine kilometres of the proposed cross-border petroleum pipeline lies in Indian territory and the remaining two kilometres in Nepal. This pipeline would promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries in oil and gas sector. This will save the transportation cost, reduce leakage and secure long-term supply of petroleum products to Nepal. The India Oil Corporation will bear expense of Rs 200 crore of the project whereas Nepal Oil Corporation will contribute Rs 75 crore for re-engineering the Amlekhgan Depot.

**India – Bangladesh exchanged enclaves:** India and Bangladesh exchanged enclaves, ending the 68 years of stateless existence for over 51,000 enclave dwellers. With this, around 14000 people living for so long in 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in the Indian territory, and another 37000 residing in 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh, will now have a country of their own. India gave away to Bangladesh a total area of 17,160 acres, covering the 111 enclaves and in return received 7,110 acres comprising 51 enclaves. The Bangladeshi enclaves are now a part of India, while the Indian enclaves join Bangladesh.

This exchange of enclaves is in pursuance of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed on 6th June 2015 in Dhaka during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Bangladesh.

**India, Egypt signed two MoUs for Cooperation in Tourism, Scientific and Technical Cooperation:** India and Egypt have signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in the field of Tourism, Scientific and Technical. These MoUs were signed in Egypt during the recent visit of External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj to Egypt.

**India and, Australia signed MoU on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Training and Research:** India and Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the fields of education, research and training. The MoU was signed in New Delhi during the visit of Australian
Minister for Education and Training. The MoU seeks to intensify existing partnerships between both countries in higher education & research, including professional and technical education, vocational education, schools and training. It also seeks to open up new and innovative areas of cooperation.

**NTPC sets a record in single-day power generation:** India’s largest power generator National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited has achieved a record of highest single-day electricity generation of over 733 million units. The record generation of electricity on August 27, 2015 was achieved from NTPC’s 18 coal-based power plants, 8 solar & hydro power stations and 7 gas-based units. On the record day, the Declared Cumulative Capability (DCC) of the stations was 91.10 per cent and Plant Load Factor (PLF) was of 86.34 per cent.

During financial year 2014-15, NTPC had contributed 25 per cent of total electricity generated in the country and recorded gross electricity generation of around 241 billion units.

**GSAT-6 communication satellite successfully placed in orbit:** Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully placed communication satellite GSAT-6 into its intended geosynchronous transfer orbit. It was launched by the indigenously built Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-D6 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikotta.

GSAT-6 is 25th indigenously built geostationary communications satellite and 12th in the GSAT series. GSAT-6 satellite weighs 2117 kg and has S-Band and C-Band transponders meant for public and strategic purposes. GSAT-6 satellite will be deployed in constellation of India’s GSAT communication satellites and has mission life of nine years.

GSLV-D6 is three-stage heavy weight rocket with indigenously made Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS). It is fueled by liquid Oxygen and liquid Hydrogen propellants. CUS provides rocket more thrust for every kilogram of propellant it burns compared to earlier solid and earth-storable liquid propellant rocket stages. This was the overall 9th flight of the GSLV and marks the second successful GSLV launch using an indigenous cryogenic engine. This successful launch of indigenous rocket with 2 tonnes payload capacity validates India’s expertise in mastering the complex cryogenic technology which has so far been in the exclusive domain of just a few countries.

**The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle launched five satellites of United Kingdom:** The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), in its thirtieth flight (PSLV-C28), launched three identical DMC3
optical earth observation satellites built by Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), United Kingdom (UK). The three DMC3 satellites, each weighing 447 kg, launched into a 647 km Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO) using the high-end version of PSLV (PSLV-XL) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota (SDSC-SHAR), the spaceport of India. PSLV-C28 was the ninth flight of PSLV in ‘XL’ configuration.

The PSLV-C28, in addition to the three DMC3 satellites, also carried two auxiliary satellites from UK, viz., CBNT-1, a technology demonstrator earth observation micro satellite built by SSTL, and De-OrbitSail, a technology demonstrator nano satellite built by Surrey Space Centre.

With the overall lift-off mass of the five satellites amounting to about 1440 kg, this mission becomes the heaviest commercial mission undertaken by ISRO till date.

These international customer satellites have been launched as part of the arrangement entered into between DMC International Imaging (DMCii), a wholly owned subsidiary of SSTL, UK; and Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Kerala Government declared state as ‘Digital State’: Kerala Government has declared state totally digital, thus becoming first state in the country to achieve it. This declaration was made considering the rapid digital strides of the state which has achieved 100 percent mobile connectivity, maximum digital banking, 75 percent e-literacy, broadband connectivity upto the Panchayat level, linking bank accounts with Aadhar cards and e-district plan in all districts.

Cochin Airport becomes world’s first to operate completely on Solar Power: Cochin International Airport of Kerala has become the first airport in the world to fully operate on solar power. With the officially commissioning of the 12 MWp solar power plant near the cargo complex of airport, this airport became the first to completely operate on solar power. The plant comprises 46,150 solar panels laid across 45 acres near the cargo complex. It is capable of generating 50,000 units of electricity daily. It is coupled with an existing 1 MW solar plant commissioned in 2013. It will make airport absolutely power neutral in terms of energy consumption as it consumes around 50000 to 60000 units of electricity per day. The plant operates without any battery storage as it is directly connected to the grid. This Power Plant is green power project as it will not result in any carbon dioxide emissions over the next 25 years. It will produce clean source of energy equivalent to non-clean energy produced from coal fired power plants by burning more than 3 lakh metric tonnes of Coals. This plant is also equivalent to planting 30 lakh trees.
Cochin International Airport was also the first airport in India to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999. It is only PPP airport in the country that has handled more than 5 million passengers in a year.

**PAHAL scheme enters into Guinness Book of world records:** Union Government’s ambitious Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh (PAHAL) or “Direct Transfer of Subsidies/benefits” scheme has been acknowledged as the world’s largest cash transfer program (households) by the Guinness Book of World Records. Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh (PAHAL) scheme was formally launched as Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for LPG subsidy in 2013 in 291 districts under the aegis of Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It was modified and christened as PaHal in November 2014 and was launched in 54 districts. Later it was extended nationwide on 1 January 2015. Under the scheme, subsidized liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders are sold at market rates and consumers are entitled to receive LPG subsidy directly into their bank accounts. It is done either through bank account or Aadhaar linkage. Currently it covers more than 9.75 crore LPG consumers across the country. The scheme aims at eliminating duplication or bogus LPG connections and its diversion. It also seeks to meet substantive savings in LPG subsidy.

**Government to allow Aadhaar enrolments of NRIs, PIOs, OICs:** Govt. of India has decided to allow Aadhaar enrollment of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), Overseas Citizen of India (OCIs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). This move will help all persons on the Indian soil (including resident Indian, OCI/PIO, NRIs and visa holding visitors) to authenticate their identity digitally. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is working on the policy for Aadhaar enrolment of NRIs, PIOs and OICs as per directions from the government.

**Taj Mahal world’s fifth travel hotspots:** As per recently released Ultimate Travelist of Lonely Planet India’s historic “Taj Mahal” has ranked fifth position in the prestigious list of most attractive travel hotspot in the world. Ultimate Travelist of Lonely Planet was compiled based on ideas and voting of travel writers and its staff on their favourites sights which had inspired, enthused and excited them the most.