India’s Prime Minister lunched International Solar Alliance: On 30th November 2015, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with French President launched an international solar alliance of over 120 countries, at the Paris to harness solar energy better. The alliance was launched during 21st Session of the Conference of Parties (COP-21) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Solar alliance is an alliance of solar-rich countries which has goal of development in harmony with nature.

Prime Minister has described the solar alliance as “the sunrise of new hope, not just for clean energy but for villages and homes still in darkness, for mornings and evening filled with a clear view of the glory of the sun”. Prime Minister added that today, when the energy sources and the excesses of our industrial age have put our planet in peril, the world must turn to Sun to power our future. We should shift from ‘carbon credit’ towards ‘green credit’. When we speak of targets, we must not only reduce the use of fossil fuel, but also moderate our lifestyle.

Prime Minister Shri Modi has offered to host this initiative in India, providing the requisite land and also making a contribution of $30 million for the proposed secretariat.

India successfully test fired nuclear capable Agni-I missile: India on 27th November 2015, successfully test-fired the indigenously built nuclear-capable Agni-I missile from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. The surface-to-surface missile, capable of hitting targets up to 700 km away, was fired from launch pad of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) as a part of Strategic Forces Command (SFC) training exercise. The missile is 15 metres long and powered by solid and liquid propellants at a speed of 2.5 km per second. The Agni-I missile has already been inducted into the armed forces.

Prime Minister visited Singapore: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Singapore in November 2015 and had bilateral talks with his counterpart Mr Lee Hsien Loong. During the Prime Minister’s visit, India and Singapore signed the joint declaration to elevate bilateral relations to a strategic partnership to deepen and broaden engagement in existing areas of cooperation and catalyse new ones ranging from Political, Defence and Security Cooperation to Economic, Cultural and People to People contact.
During the two day visit of Shri Modi, both the countries signed 4 Agreements and five Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs). These include two agreements on Defence cooperation and Loan of Artefacts from India to Singapore, two executive Programme / Operationalisation documents on Arts and Culture, and white-shipping, and five MoUs on Cyber Security, Civil Aviation, Knowledge Exchange in the field of Planning, Urban planning, and combating drug trafficking.

During the visit Prime Minister also met with select CEOs and addressed the Indian diaspora. The two prime ministers also released two postal stamps showing Rashtrapati Bhavan and Istana (the Singaporean presidential palace), marking 50 years of both countries’ diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister Shri Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Malaysia: Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also visited Malaysia from 21st November to attend the 13th ASEAN-India Summit and the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS).

The ASEAN-India Summit was chaired by the Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak and was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member States. During the Summit on 21st November 2015, the prime minister and ASEAN leaders reviewed the ASEAN-India cooperation and discussed its future direction. The leaders also took note of the new Plan of Action (2016-2020) to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation along the Politico-Security, Economic and Socio-cultural pillars. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.

Similarly during the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS), the leaders took stock of the achievements of the EAS over the last decade and deliberated on its future, with a view to strengthening it and making it more effective. The leaders also discussed matters of regional and international concern including Terrorism, Environment and Disaster, Irregular migration etc. It was also chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States of America.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited United Kingdom (UK): Prime Minister Shri Modi visited UK from 12-14 November 2015 and had delegation level talks with British Prime Minister Mr. David Cameron. The two countries signed a Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement during the visit. UK also reiterated its support for India’s permanent membership of the UN Security Council and membership in the International Export Control Regimes.

Both the countries agreed to work together in the most advanced areas of science and technology. Both the countries also promised to work together for finding solutions to the enduring human problems of food and health security, climate change. The two Prime Ministers announced 2016 as the UK-India Year of Education, Research and Innovation. Prime Minister
also addressed Indian diaspora at Wembley Stadium.

Prime Ministry attended G 20 summit: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 10th G-20 Summit held at Antalya, Turkey on 15-16 November 2015. During the visit Prime Minister also attended the meet of BRICS leader on the sidelines of G-20 summit. He also met with Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of Turkey; Mariano Rajoy, the Prime Minister of Spain, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabi; Malcolm Turnbull, the Prime Minister of Australia, Donald Tusk, the President of the European Council; Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission.

During G -20 meet Prime Minister Shri Modi proposed 10-Point Plan to Tackle Terrorism and find solution to refugee crisis. He also proposed agenda on development and climate change.

Finance Minister of India visited UAE: As a follow up to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s visit, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley paid a three day visit to UAE from 15-17 November 2015, with an eye on attracting Government and Private Sector investments into India. During the visit, he met with Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Finance Minister of UAE. Both the Ministers reviewed the Economic, Trade and Finance Cooperation between the two countries, as well as strengthen bilateral relations. Shri Jaitley also met with Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chief of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince’s Court and Chairman of Higher Cooperation for specialized Economic Zones and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). He also participated in the UAE-India Economic Forum held in Dubai.

India to partner with UNESCO for collaborative knowledge sharing: Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Mrs Smriti Irani visited UNESCO Headquarters on the occasion of 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference as well as the 70th anniversary celebrations of UNESCO. During the visit HRD Minister also met with UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and had detailed on discussed on education, science, culture, and communication and information. During her address to “The Leaders Forum”, HRD Minister also offered India’s partnership with UNESCO towards collaborative knowledge sharing to assist all countries in their efforts towards achieving Agenda 2030 in a timely manner.

UN honoured Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju: The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) on 17th November 2015 designated union minister of state for home affairs Kiren Rijiju as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Champion for the Asia Region. The constant efforts of Shri Rijiju in the field of Disaster Management have resulted into recognition of India as DRR regional champion by the United Nations.

The honour was conferred by Margarete Wahlstrom, special representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, during the inaugural session of the Asia Leaders’ Meeting towards
Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in Asia. The function was attended by Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea and Thailand ministers and delegates from various countries and international organizations.

Parliament held special sitting to mark Constitution Day: In order to mark the Constitution Day and express its tribute to Shri B.R. Ambedkar, widely regarded as the architect of the Indian constitution, the parliament held special sittings on 26 and 27th November 2015. This two-day event was a part of year-long nationwide celebrations to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Shri Ambedkar.

The Constitution of India was adopted on November 26, 1949 and some of its provision came into force immediately, whereas, entire constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950.

Japan assistance for Chennai and Ahmedabad Metro Projects: Japan has agreed to give development assistance loans worth Rs 5,479 crore for the Chennai and Ahmedabad Metro projects. Japan has signed an agreement with India for an official development assistance loan of an amount of JPY 19.981 billion (around Rs.1,069 crore) for the Chennai Metro Rail Project (IV) and JPY 82.434 billion (around Rs.4,410 crore) for the Ahmedabad Metro Project.

India attaches highest importance to infrastructure projects. The provision of metro rail in big Indian cities has gained more importance because of its environment friendly nature.

“Bharat ko Janiye” Quiz: Ministry of Overseas Indian affairs, Government of India is organizing “Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz” (know India Quiz). This is intended to educate participants about India’s progress in various fields. Anyone who is between the age of 18 to 35 years can participate in the Quiz. Interested participants have to register online before 12th December 2015. The Qualification round of the Quiz will be held online on 13.12.2015. Final round of the Quiz will held on 07.01.2015. Winners of the Quiz will be facilitated during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event at New Delhi.

For registration and more details please log on to website: www.bharatkojaniye.in

Forthcoming event:

Yoga event: The Art of Living in Association with the Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi is organising an Yoga event on 18th December 2015 at Mushrif Park, Abu Dhabi. The aim of the event is to popularize the practice of Yoga in daily life. The Art of Living is organising free training sessions at various schools for the participating students.

Interested participants may contact Ms Chetana Kakkar, Coordinator, Art of Living, Abu Dhabi by e-mail or phone [chetnabhk@gmail.com; Tel. + 971 508140855].

Alternatively Embassy’s Education Wing may be contacted [e-mail id: eduwing@indembassyuae.org ; Telephone no. + 971 2 4492700 Extn. 240].