



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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Q NO.126 AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING VISIT OF PM TO USA

December 11, 2015

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2015

AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING VISIT OF PM TO USA

†*126. DR. SANJAY SINH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Prime Minister has visited United States of America (USA) recently;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main achievements of CEO Summit held in Silicon Valley during this visit; and
- (d) the details of agreements signed with renowned foreign companies in the direction of Digital India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 126 REGARDING "AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING VISIT OF PM TO USA" FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.2015

(a) to (d) Prime Minister visited New York and San Jose from September 23-28, 2015.

In New York, Prime Minister addressed the UN Summit for adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He hosted a summit of G-4 leaders to discuss the UN Security Council reform and also participated in Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping hosted by US President Barack Obama.

In the Joint Press Statement issued after the Summit, the G-4 leaders pledged to work together with all Member States and to accelerate outreach towards achieving an early and meaningful reform of the Security Council. At the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, PM made announcements towards further

strengthening India's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations.

Besides his UN-related engagements, Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with 15 world leaders including US President Barack Obama. Prime Minister also attended a round table on the financial sector; a round table on Media, Technology and Communications and also interacted with top Fortune 500 CEOs. He held one-on-one meetings with a number of leading CEOs. The Prime Minister strongly pitched India as an investment destination and outlined the measures being taken by the government to attract further investment to the country. The CEOs commended the Prime Minister on the economic reforms that have been undertaken and provided their suggestions on further steps.

Prime Minister's visit to San Jose was aimed at further strengthening India-US technology, investment, renewable energy and human resource partnership. California's technology, enterprise, capital and people-to-people connectivity with India hold strong relevance for our own development priorities. This was the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to the West Coast of the US since 1982.

In San Jose, the Prime Minister met the CEOs of several US technology companies including Apple, Microsoft, Google, Qualcomm, Cisco, and Adobe. Prime Minister also visited Google headquarters; toured Tesla Motors; and was featured in a town hall meeting at Facebook's headquarters. In all these interactions, the focus was on the importance of digital technologies for improved governance and faster service delivery and how the global IT companies can partner with India to make a transformative impact on the lives of all Indians.

The Digital India Technology event saw participation of a large number of prominent CEOs/Founders/Equivalents from top global companies. Prime Minister outlined the various efforts being made to implement the vision of the Digital India programme. These include the aggressive expansion of the National Optical Fibre Network that will take broadband to 600,000 villages; expanding the number of public Wi-Fi hotspots in the country and announced a partnership with Google to launch public Wi-Fi hotspots at 500 railway stations; and the setting up of Common Service Centres in villages and towns.

The Prime Minister attended a roundtable on renewable energy sector, in collaboration with the US Department of Commerce and Stanford University. Participants included US policy makers, academics, CEOs and investors in the renewable energy space. Considering India's resolve to follow a green path to growth and increase the role of renewable energy in India's energy basket, these interactions succeeded in outlining to the US interlocutors the link between India's needs and the US capabilities.

The Prime Minister addressed the India-US Startup Konnect 2015, an event coordinated by National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) in partnership with TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) and IIM Ahmedabad's CIIE (Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship) wherein 36 startups from India participated in an exhibition. The interactions were aimed to kick start the startup revolution in India and help us benefit from the ecosystem in Silicon Valley. The following Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Letters of Intent (LoIs) were signed at the event to strengthen the India US partnership to boost technology, innovation and startups:

MoU between Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms, Bangalore, and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3) to develop Indo-US Life Science Sister Innovation Hub to enhance science-based entrepreneurship, research, academia and businesses by leveraging each other's ecosystems. LoI between Department of Biotechnology and Prakash Lab, Stanford

University for sourcing Foldscope from Prakashlabs to DBT Star Colleges in India and for looking at possibilities for setting up of joint research on low cost instrumentation in colleges in India. MoU between NASSCOM and the Indus Entrepreneurs to support the creation of a vibrant ecosystem to foster technology entrepreneurship in India and Silicon Valley. MoU between IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) and Lester Centre for Entrepreneurship of the Haas Business School of the University of California to collaborate to jointly promote technology and impact entrepreneurship in India. MoU between IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) and Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator to extend Next Generation Intelligent network (NGIN) Membership benefits to CIIE and to jointly promote cleantech entrepreneurship. MoU between IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) and Google to support technology and impact entrepreneurs through strategic support. MoU between IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) and Tata Trust to collaborate on Bharat Fund, which will provide seed funding to Indian entrepreneurs.

In addition, several US technology companies announced their plans to enhance their engagement in India.

PM also interacted with the Indian Diaspora. This was significant for further strengthening people-to-people ties considering that the 3 million strong Indian American community provides important underpinnings to overall bilateral relations.



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