

Working Group on Indian Affairs

Bulletin Nº 4 – June 2015

The Working Group is formed by: Lía Rodríguez de la Vega, María Cristina Reigadas, Maya Alvisa, Verónica Flores, Lucía Ibarra, Sofía Delger, María Antonela Vítola, Diana Bruno, Gustavo Canzobre and Joel Alecio



Prime Minister Modi's visit to France, Germany, and Canada

On April 9, Prime Minister Modi started a nine-day visit to France, Germany and Canada, in order to promote the “Made in India” initiative.

During his stay in France, the two countries signed seventeen agreements, amongst them one that allows for the continuation of the nuclear project in Jaitapur, Maharashtra, where the French enterprise Areva will set up six nuclear reactors with total generation capacity of 10,000 MW, a project which was on stand-by due to the generated power's cost differences. Alongside this agreement, Francois Hollande announced a two-billion-Euro investment in the development of India's urban infrastructure (such as a corridor of semi high velocity trains), as well as in the defense and nuclear sectors. Modi, on his part, announced that India will buy thirty-six combat airplanes (Rafale), citing critical operational requisites of the Indian air force. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between ISRO and France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) concerning the indo-French satellite Megha Tropiques, launched on an Indian vehicle PSLV in 2011. Similarly, the Airbus Company committed to increase its outsourcing in India from 400 million Euros to 2 billion Euros.

In Germany, Modi inaugurated the Hannover Industrial Fair together with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and both expressed their support for a free trade agreement between India and the European Union. Modi added that an aid mechanism will be established to assist German financiers in their investment and commerce in India; until now, similar mechanisms have only been established between India and the United States and Japan. In a joint declaration, the two leaders agreed to the establishment of an urban development committee composed of experts from both countries, while it was noted that interaction in the education sector would be enhanced.

Finally, the Prime Minister visited Canada (becoming the first Indian PM to make a bilateral visit to that country in forty-two years, after Indira Gandhi's visit in 1973), where he addressed the diaspora community in that country following an event in the Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto. This event was similar to one held previously at Madison Square Garden in New York, in what appears to be a continuing effort to strengthen India's relationship with its emigrants and their descendants.

In Canada, an agreement was signed regarding the export of Canadian uranium to India (Cameco will sell to India 7.1 million pounds of uranium by 2020), in addition to an agreement on cyber security. It was also agreed that collaboration in the fields of tradi-

tional and renewable energy would be increased. Finally, an agreement was signed regarding the advancement of the \$2.5M CAD investment in Indian health innovations being made by Grand Challenges Canada and its Indian counterpart, the Department of Biotechnology. It was postulated that there would be increased cooperation against terrorism, as well as that thirteen memorandums of Understanding had been signed between the Indian Ministry of Skill Development and various Canadian institutions in areas such as aviation, agriculture, health care, information technology, construction, etc. Likewise, Air Canada announced that it will soon offer direct flights between Toronto and New Delhi.

Sources:

Ranjan, Pratyush, “Modi means business: 10 highlights of PM’s tour of France and Germany”, Hindustan Times, 24 April 2015

Staff Writer, “10 takeaways from Narendra Modi’s trip to France, Germany and Canada”, Live Mint, 18 April 2015

Prime Minister of Canada, “PM marks successful visit to Canada by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi”, Vancouver, British Columbia, 16 April 2015

Sputnik Staff, “Canada, India to hold bilateral talks during Modi’s visit”, Sputnik, 9 April 2015

The Hindu Staff, “India to buy 36 Rafale jets in ready condition,” The Hindu 10 April 2015, <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/prime-minister-narendra-modis-visit-to-france/article7090006.ece>

The Hindu Staff, “India, Canada to resume nuclear cooperation talks: Modi” The Hindu 15 April 2015, <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/prime-minister-narendra-modi-visit-to-canada/article7105849.ece>

Staff Writer, “Breaking down PM Narendra Modi’s three nation tour,” The Indian Express, <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/breaking-down-pm-narendra-modis-three-nation-tour/>

Associated Press, “India PM wants 36 French Rafale fighter jets, talks progress,” The New York Times April 10 2015, http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/04/10/world/europe/ap-eu-france-india.html?_r=0

Manoj Joshi, “Scripting a west side story: Modi’s visits to France, Germany and Canada adapt lessons learned from China’s economic miracle,” The Times of India April 20 2015, <http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toi-edit-page/scripting-a-west-side-story-modis-visits-to-france-germany-and-canada-adapt-lessons-learnt-from-chinas-economic-miracle/>

Niharika Mandhana, “Modi in France, Germany and Canada: Itinerary,” The Wall Street Journal April 8 2015, The Wall Street Journal, <http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/04/08/modi-in-france-germany-and-canada-itinerary/>

The Afghan President, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, made a three-day visit to India toward the end of April, in order to renew India's commitments both to the development of his country, specifically by encouraging investment, and to the fight against the Taliban. India's ties with Afghanistan have been deep since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, and particularly during the administration of the previous president, Hamid Karzai (particularly, it is worth noting that India has guaranteed \$2.2 billion USD for that country in the past decade). However, with Ghani's rise to power and subsequent visits to Pakistan and China—both before visiting India—there has been some contempt against him in New Delhi, where he first traveled 7 months after gaining power. (He asked for these countries' assistance, as well as that of the United States and Saudi Arabia, in facing various security challenges and negotiating with the Taliban as means of achieving peace in the region.)

In spite of these speed bumps, various analysts have noted that the Afghan president's visit helped to reassure India of its importance as a strategic partner to Afghanistan, as well as of the importance of Indian investments in the country. New investments are being encouraged in order to fund the construction of the Chabahar Port in Iran, which will provide Afghanistan with sea access and reduce its dependence on Pakistan, while at the same time providing India with an alternate link to Central Asia.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's importance to India can be seen in its role as a fundamental element of India's strategy in Central Asia. Moreover, the Afghan pacification is seen as a great contributor to peace in the region, helping to avoid Pakistani terrorism in India. On the other hand, India has mining interests in Hajigok: in 2011, an Indian consortium headed by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was offered three iron mines with estimated reserves of 1.8 billion tons. India also expects to join the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA), and its trans-Afghan pipeline, which costs \$10 billion USD and will transport natural gas from Yolotan, Turkmenistan to India and Pakistan, will be completed within five years.

Regarding his visit to New Delhi, President Ghani remarked, "Der ayad, durust ayad." (That is, "Better late than never.")

Sources:

Aimal Faizi, "Has India lost Afghanistan to Pakistan?," Al Jazeera, 26 April 2015, <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2015/04/india-lost-afghanistan-pakistan-150426051958020.html>

Amitabh Pashupati Revi, "Better late than never Afghan president to NDTV on delayed India visit," NDTV, 28 April 2015, <http://www.ndtv.com/world-news/better-late-than-never-afghan-president-to-ndtv-on-delayed-india-visit-758682>

Seema Guha, "Afghan president Ghani's first visit to India yields little – But New Delhi is unduly bothered," Scroll.in, 30 April 2015, <http://scroll.in/article/724142/afghan-president-ghanis-first-visit-to-india-yields-little-%E2%80%92-but-new-delhi-thinks-thats-a-good-thing>

Jack Detsch, "With trade and terrorism in mind , Ghani visit India," The Diplomat, 30 April 2015, <http://thediplomat.com/2015/04/with-trade-and-terrorism-in-mind-ghani-visits-india>

Sachin Parashar, "Afghan president Ashraf Ghani to visit India soon," The Times of In-

dia 17 March 2015, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Afghan-President-Ashraf-Ghani-to-visit-India-soon/articleshow/46590561.cms>

Sean McInerney, “Ashraf Ghani faces challenge on India visit”, The Wall Street Journal, 28 April 2015.

Anjana Pasricha, “Afghan president Ghani to meet with India PM Modi,” Voice of America, 27 April 2015, <http://www.voanews.com/content/afghanistan-president-ghani-to-meet-with-india-prime-minister-modi/2734951.html>

Staff Writer, “Afghan president Ashraf Ghani to visit India”, Z News, 16 April 2015, http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/afghan-president-ashraf-ghani-to-visit-india_1579421.html

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee’s visit to Russia

India’s President, Pranab Mukherjee, visited Russia to participate in Moscow’s celebrations celebrating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II on May 9, expressing that it would be an honour to participate of the event. He also met with friends old and new, including President Putin.

An Indian military contingent (the Nine Grenadiers Regiment) was part of the parade in the historic Red Square—their first international parade—commemorating the Russian victory and the millions of lives lost during the war (including hundreds of Indian soldiers). The parade also emphasized the need for Russia to actively participate in the peace process and remember the lessons it learned from war. President Mukherjee remarked that in 2000 Russia had been the first country with which India closed an agreement of strategic association

The parade included other important authorities (Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon; Chinese President Xi Jinping; South African President Jacob Zuma, etc.) and military units from various countries.

The Russian army lost 8.5 million soldiers in World War II, a number comparable only to Germany’s losses, while millions of civilians were also killed.

It must be remembered, in addition to the existence of a long-standing friendship between the two countries, that Russia is the second-largest supplier of weapons in the world, second to United States. It exports its weapons to 56 countries, particularly India, China and Angola, which, according to the Stockholm’s International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), buy 60% of these weapons. Moreover, as recently noted by Indian Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj, Russia has decided to jointly manufacture weapons in India, increasing the transfer of technology between the two countries.

In this context, Prime Minister Modi will visit Russia again in July and November.

Sources:

Staff Writer, “Russia stages massive WW2 parade despite Western boycott”, BBC News, 9 May 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32668511>

Sputnik Staff, “Russia values Indian President’s decision to attend victory day parade in Moscow – Envoy”, Sputnik, 7 May 2015.

BRICS post Staff, “Indian president leaves for Russia”, BRICS Post, 7 May 2015, <http://>

thebricspost.com/indian-president-leaves-for-russia-to-attend-victoryday-parade/#.VYeKu_lVgoI

BRICS post Staff, “Russia our time-tested friend: Indian Foreign Minister”, BRICS Post, 31 May 2015, <http://thebricspost.com/russia-our-time-tested-friend-indian-foreign-minister/#.VYeHgflVgoI>

The Economic Times Staff, “Russia appreciates Pranab Mukherjee’s Victory Day participation”, 8 May 2015 http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-05-08/news/61947455_1_president-pranab-mukherjee-victory-day-russia

Suhasini Haidar, “Pranab’s visit to Moscow signals ‘strategic autonomy’”, The Hindu, 5 May 2015

Suhasini Haidar, “President leaves for Russia”, The Hindu, 8 May 2015

Suhasini Haidar, “A historic first for Grenadiers”, The Hindu, 9 May 2015

Sushant Singh, “Indian military contingent to march at Moscow’s Red Square on May 9”, The Indian Express, 15 April 2015

PTI, “Russia display’s military might in WWII ‘Victory Day’ parade; Indian, Chinese troops take part”, The Times of India, 9 May 2015, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/Russia-displays-military-might-in-WWII-Victory-Day-parade-Indian-Chinese-troops-take-part/articleshow/47215385.cms>

Anton Troianovski, “Merkel’s Moscow Trip Highlights Two Sides of Germany”, The Wall Street Journal, 9 May 2015

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to China, Mongolia and South Korea

On May 14, Modi began a three-day visit to China, searching for an increase of economic cooperation between both countries.

Modi met with President Xi Jinping in Xian, capital of the Shaanxi Province (and home of the President), then visited Beijing and Shanghai.

The visit to Xian brought to the table the question “Buddhist diplomacy”, while the visit to the Wild Goose Temple, built in tribute of the Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang, allowed Modi to reflect on the link between his own hometown, which the pilgrim had visited thousands of years before on his quest to bring Buddhism to China. Modi’s visit to this town, made following an invitation that President Xi made last year to Modi’s home town in Gujarat, is seen as symbolic of his intention to improve relations between the two countries.

These pilgrimages have also encouraged the Chinese government to allow the opening of a second border crossing Kailash-Manasarovar (that is, Nathu La pass, in Sikkim) for the pilgrims devoted to the goddess Shiva (one of the sacred places of Hinduism), in the Tibetan province of Ngari –the existing route is the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand.

China is India’s most important trade partner, engaging in \$71 billion USD of bilateral trade in 2014. However, the numbers show that the balance of trade is unfavorable for India: the deficit equaled US\$ 1 billion in the 2001-2002 fiscal year and in 2014 is at US\$ 28 billion.

Twenty-four agreements were signed between the two countries, accounting for a total of \$10 billion USD. Modi and Xi’s Joint Declaration shows that both countries agree on the existence of a historical justification for their increased bilateral relations. This no-

tion was the closest predecessor to an agreement that was reached during President Xi's 2014 visit to India, which he made to encourage closer association in the realm of development. Likewise, they agreed that the countries' rise to power in the region and the world offers an important opportunity for the realization of the "Asian Century" and that their bilateral relations will play a deciding role in such.

In general terms, it can be said that a strengthening of a political dialogue and a strategic communication between the two countries can be seen, as well as improved cultural and interpersonal relations. In fact, this can be seen in many of the Memoranda of Understanding signed, including the issue of "sister cities," the establishment of consulates in Chengdu and Chennai (and the extension of the India's General Consulate district in Guangzhou, which will include the Province of Jiangxi) and the forging of bonds between India and the yoga schools of Yunnan and Kunming.

These agreements and commitments reached will influence relations not only in the bilateral but also in the regional, multilateral and global spheres. Both parties agreed not only to intensify their dialogue on events that affect peace, security, and development, but also to coordinate their positions and to work together to shape the regional and global agendas, particularly by strengthening their coordination and cooperation in multilateral forums (RIC, BRIC and G20, OMC, etc).

The recognition of the need for peace in borderlands was deemed necessary in order to encourage bilateral growth and development. For this reason, it was agreed that there would be annual visits and interchanges between the Central Military Offices of both countries, also establishing a "hotline" between both countries and systematic meetings between frontier personnel in all bordering areas.

In response to the Chinese Government's requests for reduced visa and security regulations for Chinese tourists and businesspeople, Prime Minister Modi announced in front to students of the Tsinghua University a few days before returning to India that his country will would electronic tourist visas to Chinese citizens, thus allowing online visa applications. It is expected that this measure will maximize cooperation on tourism (an area in which they signed another agreement), with 2015 and 2016 being designated the years of "Visiting India" and "Visiting China". Likewise, Modi requested the Chinese Government to "reconsider" matters such as visa policies for residents in Arunachal Pradesh.

Other agreements signed are:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Ability Development and Entrepreneur Spirit of India and the Ministry of Human Development and Social Security of China, for cooperation in the areas of vocational educational and skill development.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the countries on consulting mechanisms for cooperation in commercial negotiations.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India and the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.
- Memorandum of Understanding on an exchange program in the area of education.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Mines in India and the Ministry of Land and Resources of China, on cooperation in the mining and mineral

sectors.

- Memorandum of Understanding between Doordarshan and the Central Television of China, on cooperation in the field of media transmission.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Niti Aayog of India and the center of Investigation in Development, State Council of China.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Sciences of the Land of India and the Administration on Earthquakes of China, on cooperation in the fields of earthquake science and engineering.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Sciences of the Land of India and the State Oceanic Administration of China, on cooperation in the fields of oceanography, oceanic technology, climate change, polar science and the cryosphere.
- Memorandum of Understanding on scientific cooperation between the Geological Study of India, the Ministry of Mines of India, the Geological Studies of China and the Ministry of Land and Resources of China in geosciences.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Relations of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, on the establishment of forums for leaders of states and provinces.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and the Fudan University, on the establishment of a center for Indian and Gandhian studies.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and the University of Yunnan Minzu, on the establishment of a yoga school.
- Memorandum of Understanding on establishing a forum for the think-tanks of both countries.
- An agreement between the Ministry of Tourism of India and the National Administration of Tourism of China, on cooperation in tourism.
- An agreement on the establishment of sister states and provinces between the governments of the State of Karnataka in India and the Province of Sichuan in China.
- An agreement on the establishment of relations between the sister cities of Chennai (India) and Chongqing (China).
- An agreement on the establishment of relation between the sister cities of Hyderabad (India) and Qingdao (China).
- An agreement on the establishment of relation between the sister cities of Aurangabad (India) and Dunhuang (China).
- Plan of Space Cooperation (2015-2020).
- A protocol on Health and Security Regulations on Chinese imports of Indian canola flour, between the Council of Export Inspections, the Ministry of Trade and Industry of India and the General Administration of Quality, Inspection and Quarantine Supervision.
- An action plan on cooperation in the establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi National Institute for the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

An action plan between the National Railroads Administration of China and the Ministry of Railroads of India, for improved cooperation in this area (2015-16).

On May 17 Modi travelled to Mongolia, being the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the country. In this encounter, which was traversed by the historical ties between the two countries through Buddhism, Modi announced a credit of US\$ 1 billion for the development of infrastructure and the promotion of the ties with Mongolia to the level of “strategic association”, deepening cooperation in defense and exploring the potential in areas such as civil nuclear energy. Modi and the Mongol Prime Minister, Chimed Saikhanbileg, showed that they are expecting to take their trade society to a new level – Modi added that Mongolia today is an integral part of its policy “India’s Act East”-. A total of 13 agreements were signed during the visit.

On May 18 and 19, Modi visited South Korea, meeting with the President Park Gyeunhye. Here it was specified that both countries agreed to increase their ties in a “Special Strategic Association”, deepening cooperation in the defense area (which implies also the participation of Korean companies in this area in India), by signing 7 agreements that include a variety of matters. The soft power relation is clearly visible through the great number of Korean expatriates in India and the great number of Korean tourists to India (in fact, India announced facilities for visas to Koreans in 2014).

As a result of Modi’s stay in China, the General Administration of Quality, Inspection and Quarantine Supervision (AQSIQ) announced that it would lift the prohibition on rapeseed foods (a plant similar to cabbage that is used for human and cattle food) on his return to India. The purchase of rapeseeds from India had been prohibited since January of 2012, after a contamination of a shipload by green malachite, a dye used in India for marking sacks of grain, forbidden in China for the production of food for animals, was found.

Sources:

Al Jazeera Staff, “India’s Modi arrives in China for trade talks”, Al Jazeera, 14 May 2015
BBC Staff, “Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins key China visit,” BBC 14 May 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-32730803>

Staff Writer, “In South Korea, PM Narendra Modi says now it’s time to “Act East,” Hindustan Times 18 May 2015, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-arrives-in-south-korea-to-enthusiastic-welcome/article1-1348274.aspx>

Julien Bouissou, “Linde et la Chine, rivaux historiques et partenaires obligés,” Le Monde 15 May 2015.

O Globo Staff, “China e Índia firmam acordos comerciais de US\$ 22 bilhões,” O Globo 16 May 2015, <http://oglobo.globo.com/economia/china-india-firmam-acordos-comerciais-de-us-22-bilhoes-16179997>

The BRICS Post Staff, “China to resume Indian rapeseed imports, first in 3 years,” The BRICS Post 20 May 2015, <http://thebricspost.com/china-to-resume-indian-rapeseed-imports-first-in-3-years/#.VYeJMvIVgoI>

AFP, “India’s Modi to make first visit to rival giant China,” The Guardian 5 May 2015.

Internet Desk, “Takeaways from Modi’s China visit,” The Hindu 16 May 2015, <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/bilateral-agreements-signed-during-modis-china-visit/article7210595.ece>

Suhasini Haidar, “India grants e-visas for Chinese nationals,” The Hindu 15 May 2015.

PTI, “Mongolia gets \$1bn credit gift,” The Hindu 19 May 2015, <http://>

www.thehindu.com/news/national/mongolia-integral-part-of-indias-act-east-policy-modi/article7216207.ece

Chris Buckley & Ellen Barry, "Narendra Modi starts trip to China with a burst of sight-seeing," The New York Times 14 May 2015.

Associated Press, "India's Modi meets Xi on China visit amid warming ties," The New York Times 14 May 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/13/world/asia/ap-as-china-india-summit.html>

TNN, "List of 24 agreements signed between India and China," The Times of India 15 May 2015, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/List-of-24-agreements-signed-between-India-and-China/articleshow/47293166.cms>

TNN, "Full Text: Joint statements of India-China bilateral talks," The Times of India 15 May 2015, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Full-text-Joint-statement-of-India-China-bilateral-talks/articleshow/47293192.cms>

Z News Staff, "India extends \$1 billion credit to Mongolia, deepens defence ties during PM Modi's visit," Z News 5 June 2015, http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/india-extends-1-billion-credit-to-mongolia-deepens-defence-ties-during-pm-modis-visit_1596771.html

India and Bangladesh sign historical agreement

On June 6, India and Bangladesh ratified a territorial agreement, which had been stalling for four decades, on the territorial enclaves, including the presence of more than 50,000 residents, in the 4,000 kilometers shared frontier.

The agreement already had been signed in 1974 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and his counterpart from Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of the present Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina (who won a disputed election which was permanently boycotted by the opposition) and is only just now ratified by the Indian Parliament, contributing to another victory of Prime Minister Modi with regards to his foreign politics; sending a powerful sign on India's disposition to advance the resolution of border conflicts.

The 106 Indian territories in Bangladesh and the 92 Bangladeshi in India are considered foreign islands near to the official frontier between the two countries. They include 37,330 residents in Indian Territory and 14,200 in Bangladesh territory that lack public services because their respective governments do not have access to them.

Under the new agreement, each country will take control of those regions in their territory and its population will have the right to remain there or, if they prefer, they can relocate to the other side of the border.

In the same historical circumstances both countries have renewed their bilateral trade agreement and the protocol for transit and trade in inland waters.

Furthermore a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the extension of an Indian line of credit to Bangladesh for US\$ 2 billion, while other memoranda include economical and marine affairs in the Bengal Bay and the Indian Ocean. The documents signed are the following:

1. The exchange of Ratification Instruments of the Border Agreement of 1974 and its Protocol of 2011.

2. The exchange of letters on the Modalities for the Implementation of the Border Agreement of 1974 and its Protocol of 2011.
3. Renewal of the Bilateral Trade Agreement.
4. Agreement on Cabotage Navigation between Bangladesh and India.
5. Renewal of the Protocol on Transit in Inland Waters and Trade.
6. A Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between the Bangladesh Institute of Tests and Standards (BITS) and the Indian Office of Standards (IOS), on cooperation in the field of Standardization.
7. Agreement on the Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati Bus Service and its Protocol.
8. Agreement on the Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service and its Protocol (Modi, Hasina and the Chief of State Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, launched formally both bus services).
9. Memorandum of Understanding between Coast Guards.
10. Memorandum of Understanding on the Prevention of Trafficking of Persons.
11. Memorandum of Understanding on the Prevention of Contraband and Circulation of False Money.
12. Memorandum of Understanding between Bangladesh and India for the Extension of a New Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 2 billion, from the Government of India to the Government of Bangladesh.
13. Memorandum of Understanding on Economy and Maritime Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.
14. Memorandum of Understanding on the use of ports of Chittagong and Mongla.
15. Memorandum of Understanding for low Project IECC (India's Equipment for Climate Change) from SAARC.
16. Memorandum of Understanding on the Indian Economic Zone.
17. A programme on Cultural Interchange for the years 2015-2017.
18. The Adoption of the Intentions Declaration on the Cooperation in Education from Bangladesh to India.
19. An Agreement between the Submarine Cable Company of Bangladesh (SCCB) and Bharat Sanchar Niin Agam Limited (BSNL) to rent an international wide band for internet Akhaura.
20. Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Industrial and Scientific Investigation Council of India, for a joint Investigation on Oceanography of the Bay of Bengal.
21. Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh and the University Jamia Milia Islamia, India.
22. Delivery of a Letter of Consent by the Regulating and Insurance Developing Authority (RIDA) Bangladesh to the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), India in order to initiate operations in Bangladesh.

Likewise the cornerstones for the construction of the Khulna-Monga railroad; the rehabilitation of the Kalaura-Shahbajppur section of the Bangladesian railroad; the Friendship House between Bangladesh and India, in the Police National Academy, Sardah; the Rabindra Bhaban in Kuthibari, Shilaidaha (center for cultural events that seeks to maintain the legacy of Tagore); and the Bangladesh-India Friendship Bridge over the Feni River were placed. The frontier market of Tarapur-Kamlasagar was also inaugurated and laboratories were updated in BST (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution).

The improvement of the connectivity between Bangladesh and India was one of the featured acts with the signature of the Memoranda on the bus and train services and matters of navigation and coastal guards. India considers that the improved connectivity with the neighboring country will contribute to unite Northeast India with Southeast Asia.

On the other part, Bangladesh signed a Memoranda of Understanding with the Indian Companies of Adani Power Limited and Reliance, to establish energy plants for the production of 4.600 MW of electricity. Adani Power Limited will invest US\$ 3 billion in order to establish a plant for the combustion of gas, with a capacity of 3.000 MW. It must be remembered that both countries share many rivers and that the interchange of water is a contentious matter.

Sources:

Staff Correspondent, "List of Bangladesh-India bilateral deals signed during Modi's Dhaka visit," BDnews24 6 June 2015, <http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2015/06/06/list-of-bangladesh-india-bilateral-deals-signed-during-modis-dhaka-visit>

Staff Writer, "India y Bangladesh ratifican un histórico acuerdo fronterizo durante la visita de Modi," Diario las Américas 6 June 2015, http://www.diariolasamericas.com/440_mundo/3148638_india-y-bangladesh-ratifican-un-historico-acuerdo-fronterizo-durante-la-visita-de-modi.html

DNA Staff, "India inks landmarks motor pact with 3 SAARC nations," DNA 15 June 2015, <http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-india-inks-landmark-motor-pact-with-3-saarc-nations-2095867>

Victor M. Olazábal, "India y Bangladesh pactan simplificar su frontera", El Mundo 7 June 2015.

Jayanth Jacob, "Land boundary deal done, PM Modi talks Teesta, development in Bangladesh" Hindustan Times 8 June 2015.

Europa Press, "India y Bangladesh ratifican un histórico acuerdo territorial," Lainformacion.com 6 June 2015, http://noticias.lainformacion.com/mundo/india-y-bangladesh-ratifican-un-historico-acuerdo-territorial_GYGG3Wz070uUSz6HlodrY3/

Julien Bouissou, "Accord historique sur la frontière entre l'Inde et le Bangladesh," Le Monde 6 June 2015.

Agence France Presse, "India, Bangladesh sign historic deal that ends border disputes between the 2 nations," NDTV 6 June 2015, <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-and-bangladesh-ratify-historic-land-boundary-agreement-in-dhaka-769308>

Serajul Quadir, "India, Bangladesh sign historic land boundary agreement," Reuters 6 June 2015, <http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/06/06/bangladesh-india-land-treaty-idINKBNOOM0IV20150606>

Jason Burke, "India and Bangladesh seal border deal, four decades later," The Observer 6 June 2015.

Haroon Habib, "Adani, Reliance sign deals for power generation in Bangladesh," The Hindu 7 June 2015.

Pratim Ranjan Bose, "India, Bangladesh sign historic land boundary agreement," The Hindu Business Line 6 June 2015.

PTI, "India, Bangladesh ink 22 key agreements during Modi's maiden visit," The Hindu

Business Line 6 June 2015, <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-bangladesh-ink-22-key-agreements-during-modis-maiden-visit/article7289543.ece>

PTI, “Modi, Hasina flag off two bus services between India, Bangladesh,” The Hindu Business Line 6 June 2015, <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/modi-hasina-flag-off-two-bus-services-between-india-bangladesh/article7289343.ece?ref=relatedNews>

Associated Press, “India and Bangladesh finalize long-delayed land swap deal,” The New York Times 6 June 2015, http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/06/world/asia/ap-as-bangladesh-india.html?_r=0

Improvement of the connectivity between the SAARC countries; signing of an agreement between India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh

On June 15, in the Bhutanese capital of Thimpu, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal signed an agreement on the regulation for motor vehicles on the traffic of people and goods. The agreement will contribute to improve the cross-border movement of people and merchandise for a greater economic benefit of the whole region and complies with what was expressed in the SAAR (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) meeting that took place the previous year in order to deepen regional integration.

The Indian Minister of Transport, Nitin Gadkari, indicated the necessity of complementing this agreement with an improvement in roads, trains and railroad infrastructure, energy networks, communications and regional connections. Added to this, he showed that an agreement of similar nature has been already agreed between India, Myanmar and Thailand and, once signed, will imply an access to the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) market for India.

A joint communiqué of the four countries shows that the BBIN agreement (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal) is a complementary instrument to the transport agreement and bilateral arrangements already in place, which the parties will continue to honor.

The agreement will be revised every three years or before, if there is consensus to do so and any country can leave it with a previous notification of 6 months. Also, although it does not include other countries from the SAAR, there is a provision in the agreement signed for the inclusion of new countries on the consensus of the signatories.

Sources:

Senior Correspondent, “Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal sign motor vehicle agreement,” BDnews24.com 15 June 2015, <http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2015/06/15/bangladesh-bhutan-india-nepal-sign-motor-vehicle-agreement>

Bernama Staff, “India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bangladesh sign motor vehicle pact,” Bernama 16 June 2015, <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1144697>

Staff Writer, “Four SAARC countries agree on free vehicle movement,” Bhutan News Network 1 June 2015, <http://www.bhutannewsnetwork.com/2015/06/four-saarc-countries-agree-on-free-vehicle-movement/>

Staff Writer, “India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh sign a landmark motor vehicles

agreement for seamless movement of road traffic among four SAARC countries in Thimpu,” Business Standard 15 June 2015, http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/india-nepal-bhutan-and-bangladesh-sign-a-landmark-motor-vehicles-agreement-115061500856_1.html

Press Information Bureau Government of India Cabinet, “Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and cargo vehicular traffic amongst BBIN,” 10 June 2015, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=122416>

ET Bureau, “SAARC connectivity India inks landmark motor pact with Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal,” The Economic Times 16 June 2015, <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/saarc-connectivity-india-inks-landmark-motor-pact-with-bhutan-bangladesh-and-nepal/articleshow/47676229.cms>

PTI, “4 SAARC to ink pact for seamless transit of vehicles,” The Hindu Business Line 6 February 2015, <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/logistics/4-saarc-nations-to-ink-pact-for-seamless-transit-of-vehicles/article6865279.ece>

PTI, “India inks motor vehicles pact with Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal,” The Hindu Business Line 15 June 2015, <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-inks-motor-vehicles-pact-with-bhutan-bangladesh-nepal/article7318968.ece>

PTI, “Nepal to ink transport deal with India, Bangladesh, Bhutan,” The Times of India 12 June 2015, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/Nepal-to-ink-transport-deal-with-India-Bangladesh-Bhutan/articleshow/47646543.cms>

Staff Writer, “Drive through: motor vehicles agreement with Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh opens new frontiers,” The Times of India 17 June 2015, <http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toi-editorials/drive-through-motor-vehicles-agreement-with-bhutan-nepal-and-bangladesh-opens-new-frontiers/>

Z News Staff, “Open border deal among India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal,” Z News 15 June 2015, http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/open-border-deal-among-india-bhutan-bangladesh-nepal_1613629.html

Celebration of the International Day of Yoga

On June 21 the International Day of Yoga was celebrated worldwide. It was presented as a proposal by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in 2014, to the United Nations General Assembly and was approved by the vote of 175 countries, amongst them 47 Islamic countries (Bangladesh, Iran, Turkey, Indonesia, Qatar, Oman, etc.), being the initiative that registered the greatest support in history (according to MEA) without registering any opposition.

The celebration, that reunited more than 35000 people in Rajpath (the ceremonial boulevard in New Delhi), with Modi, his ministers and diplomats amongst the participants (it entered the Guinness Book of Records, due to the greatest number of individuals in the yoga practice and for the biggest number of nationalities represented in this practice), was extended through the activities organized by the different Indian embassies in 251 cities, in 191 countries all around the world, in a massive deployment of the potential of Indian soft power, originating from the idea that cultural elements of India,

as yoga, were first practiced there but are already a world heritage.

After Prime Minister's inaugural speech yogic practices followed, amongst the most important were those developed by Indian soldiers in the Sachien Glacier, 18.800 feet above sea level (more than 1.1 million cadets of the National Cadet Corps and many policemen deployed a common yoga protocol, established by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy –AYUSH–).



Prime Minister Modi practicing yoga in New Delhi on occasion of the first celebration of the International Day of Yoga. Source: The Indian Express.

On his part, the Minister of Foreign Relations, Sushma Swaraj, led the event in Times Square, New York city, although it must be said that in this city, a “Yogaton”, is already taking place for 13 years.

There are two national yoga institutes: the National Institute of Yoga Morarji Desai (MDNIY) –that recently started the formation of yogic science, while other 18 institutions are already teaching in Delhi and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) in the city of Puna. There also exists the Central Council for the Investigation in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), in Delhi. They all count with budgets for their operations and develop activities such as conferences, exhibitions of yoga practices, etc.

In Argentina, under the slogan “A million Argentines united by yoga”, different events with yogic practices took place throughout the country, led by the one that took place in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires where the Ambassador Amarendra

Khatua, accompanied by an official of the Government of the City and the Ambassador of Vietnam, opened the activity, that took place in El Dorrego. There was a numerous attendance and different institutions that carry out, teach and transmit the practice of yoga participated in the ceremony after showing a video with the message of Prime Minister Modi gave for the occasion in Delhi.



Celebration of the International Yoga Day in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Source: Embassy of India in Buenos Aires



Celebration of the International Day of Yoga in the Province of San Luis (Argentina)

Source: Honorary General Consulate of India

Sources:

CBS News: <http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/the-first-international-day-of-yoga/>

Clarín Staff, “Se viene una clase record por el primer día internacional del yoga,” Clarín 18 June 2015, http://www.clarin.com/buena-vida/ser-zen/record-primer-Dia-Internacional-Yoga_0_1377462557.html

General Consulat of India in Argentina: <https://www.facebook.com/consulado.de.india>

Freya Noble, “That’s A LOT of downward dogs!,” Daily Mail Australia 21 June 2015, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3133167/That-s-LOT-downward-dogs-Incredible-photos-millions-people-world-taking-International-Day-Yoga-army-prime-minister-involved.html>

Embassy of India, Buenos Aires, Argentina. <http://www.indembarg.org.ar/>

Leigh Weingus, “Here’s what international yoga day looked like around the world,” The Huffington Post 22 June 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/22/international-day-of-yoga-photos-around-the-world_n_7637870.html

AP & EFE, “En fotos: millones de personas participaron de una sesión de yoga mundial,” La Nacion 21 June 2015, <http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1803766-en-fotos-millones-de-personas-hicieron-yoga-al-unisono-en-el-mundo>

AFP, “Le premier ministre indien participe à la première journée du yoga,” Le Monde 21 June 2015, http://www.lemonde.fr/asi-pacifique/article/2015/06/21/le-premier-ministre-indien-participe-a-la-premiere-journee-du-yoga_4658665_3216.html

Télam Staff, “La India celebra hoy el día mundial del yoga,” Télam 21 June 2015, <http://www.telam.com.ar/notas/201506/109733-india-dia-mundial-yoga.html>

Staff Writer, “From Siache to South Chinese Sea, Indian armed forces mark international yoga day,” The Economic Times 21 June 2015, http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/from-siachen-to-south-china-sea-indian-armed-forces-mark-international-yoga-day/articleshow/47754232.cms?intext=entertainment-get=no&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Dailynewsletter&ncode=72a090dc87520195af4f24e46165d01f

Chaitanya Mallapur, “47 islamic nations join international yoga day,” The Economic Times 21 June 2015.

The Guardian pictures: <http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/gallery/2015/jun/21/international-yoga-day-in-pictures>

National Bureau, “Delhi will turn in one large yoga mat today,” The Hindu 21 June 2015.

The Indian Express Pictures: <http://indianexpress.com/photos/picture-gallery-others/when-the-world-embraced-the-international-yoga-day/>

Nida Najar, “International yoga day finally arrives in India, amid cheers and skepticism,” The New York Times 21 June 2015.

The Telegraph Pictures: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/11689500/International-Yoga-Day-in-pictures.html>

Joanna Sugden, “Stunning images as yoga takes over world renowned sites,” The Wall Street Journal 22 June 2015, <http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/06/22/stunning-images-as-yoga-takes-over-world-renowned-sites/>

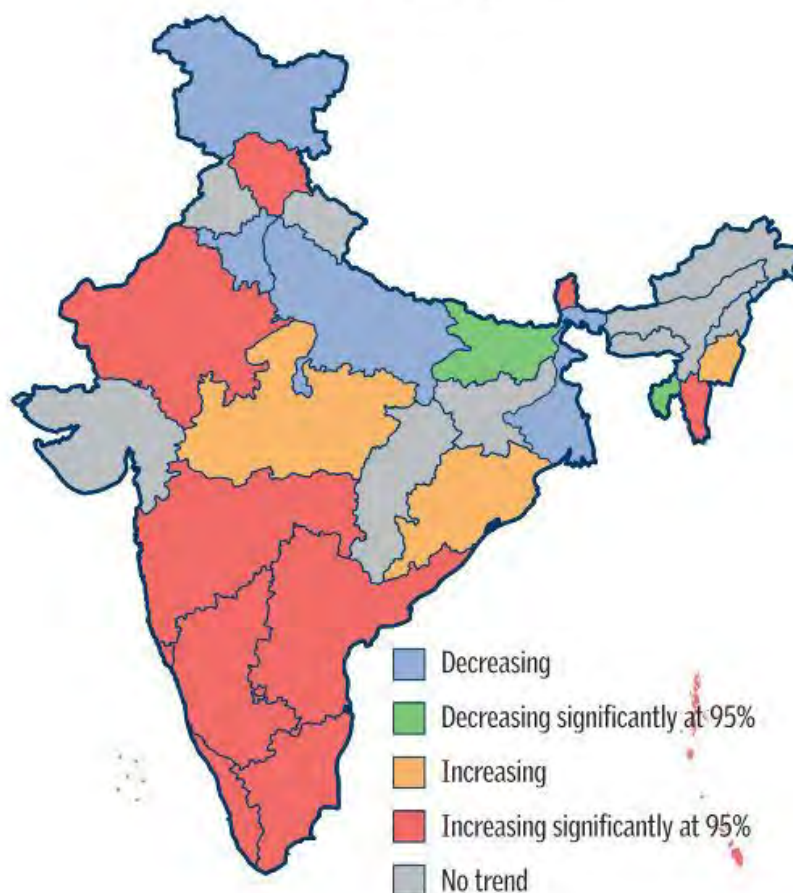
The Wall Street Journal: The Washington Post: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/millions-across-india-take-part-in-yoga-day-celebrations/2015/06/20/495e25a8-17be-11e5-8457-4b431bf7ed4c_story.html

Z News Staff, "Thousands in China observe international yoga day," Z News 22 June 2015, http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/thousands-in-china-observe-international-yoga-day_1617642.html

Other News

- The Indian Government announced the nomination of the Indian banker Udupur Vaman Kamath, as President of the new BRICS Investment Bank that will be in operation in a period of one year. The banker has worked with the Asian Development Bank and was named "Forbes Asian Business man of the year" in 2007.
- The Governor of the Indian Central Bank, Raghuram Rajan, made a summons to grant access to formal financing to the countries' small and marginal farmers, showing that the great challenge of the hour is to extend the formal institutions to all parts of the country. The general panorama is given by the recently modified Acquisition of Lands Law and the situation of the farmers that face untimely rains and hail storms damaging winter crops, some of which chose suicide in face of the impossibility of redeeming the acquired debts.
- The Brazilian state oil company, Petrobras, discovered new fields of light crude oil in the area of Poco Verde (North of the country), which it shares with ONGC of India (Petrobras holds 75% of the discovery and ONGC of India the 25%). A well was drilled 5.350 meters in the water, in the coast of Aracaju, capital of the State of Sergipe. The discoveries include an adjacent block where Petrobras is associated with IBV Brazil SA, a joint company with India's Videocon Industries Ltd and Bharat Petroleum Corp. (Petrobras holds 60% of this association and IBV 40%).
- A heat wave hit India in Mid April, provoking the death of approximately 2000 persons in a short time, the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (South of the country) being the most affected. Also de States of Rajasthan and Haryana (North of the country) and the capital New Delhi, suffered high temperatures, the highest temperature being registered was 47 degrees (117 degrees Fahrenheit) in Angul, State of Odisha.

MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE TRENDS FOR 1951-2010 (SUMMER)



SOURCE: INDIA
METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT

Source: The Hindu [Sriram, J. (June 7th, 2015). "Summer of 2015"].

Sources:

Staff Writer, "India heat wave tests water supply as deaths near 2,000," Al Jazeera 30 May 2015, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/india-heat-wave-tests-water-supply-deaths-2000-150530032253669.html>

Parvez Jabri, "India central bank chief Rajan calls for formal financing routes for farmers," Business Recorder 25 April 2015, <http://www.brecorder.com/business-a-finance/banking-a-finance/239607-india-central-bank-chief-rajan-calls-for-formal-financing-routes-for-farmers.html>

Harmeet Shah Singh, "Heat wave kills more than 1,100 in India," CNN May 28 2015,

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/05/25/asia/india-heatwave-deaths/>

Neha Dasgupta, “RBI chief Rajan calls for formal financing routes for farmers,” Reuters 25 April 2015, <http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/04/25/india-farmers-idINKBNONG06F20150425>

Staff Writer, “India announces first BRICS bank president,” The BRICS Post 11 May 2015, <http://thebricspost.com/india-announces-first-brics-bank-president/#.VYeKGvIVgoI>

Staff Writer, “Farmers need formal financing: India central bank chief,” The BRICS post 25 April 2015, <http://thebricspost.com/farmers-need-formal-financing-india-central-bank-chief/#.VYeMIPIVgoI>

Staff Writer, “Indian heatwave continues death toll crosses 2200,” The BRICS Post 31 May 2015, <http://thebricspost.com/indian-heatwave-continues-death-toll-crosses-2200/#.VYeIOflVgoI>

Staff Writer, “Hundreds die in Indian heatwave,” The BRICS Post 24 May 2015, <http://thebricspost.com/hundreds-die-in-indian-heatwave/#.VYeIzPIVgoI>

PTI, “K V Kamath from \$100-billion ICICI bank to \$100-billion BRICS bank,” The Economic Times 11 May 2015, http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-05-11/news/62039749_1_k-v-kamath-new-development-bank-brics-bank

Jayant Sriram, “Summer of 2015,” The Hindu 7 June 2015.

Associated Press, “India heat wave kills more than 200 since April,” The New York Time 23 May 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/24/world/asia/india-heat-wave-kills-more-than-200-since-april.html>

Echoes of the Diaspora I

A report by Ford & Grove-White from the Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), the University of Manchester and the Migrants’ Rights Network, respectively, showed that approximately 4 million voters in the general elections of May 7, 2015 are born outside the United Kingdom and are currently residing in the UK and/or are naturalized there.

Of these migrants present in the United Kingdom, the Indian community increased from 456.000 in 2001 to 694.000 in 2011 and it is estimated that at present 789.000 persons from Indian origin reside there, with an estimated number of 615.000 voters. Other large migrant communities are the Pakistani, the Irish, from Bangladesh, Nigeria, etc.

The districts with the highest percentage of voters born in foreign countries in London are: East Ham (51%), Brent North (50) and West Ham (47.1%) and outside of London: Leicester East (39.3%), Birmingham, Ladywood (34.3%) and Slough (33.2%).

The total number of candidates that were included in the election was 3.971 (the highest number of candidates in the history of the country after the 2010 elections of 2010 – that had more than 4.000 candidates-).

The participation of the Indian community in the elections (the biggest ethnic community in the United Kingdom), was expected to be very active, the unprecedented fact must be added that up to now 10 candidates of Indian origin were elected –in comparison to the last elections where candidates of Indian origin had won 8 seats- amongst them, Keith Vaz (Leicester East), Virendra Shandra (Ealing Southall), already public servers for the Labour Party. Meanwhile, Priti Patel (Conservative Party) and Valerie Vaz (Labour

Party) retained the seats they already had, while Seema Malhotra obtained a seat.

Rishi Sunak, son-in-law of the cofounder of Infosys, Narayana Murthy, competed for the Tory seat of Richmond (York) in the North of England, having won 51.4% of the votes; he has become the first member of the York Indian community to access the House of Commons.

Other members of the Indian community that were elected were Alok Sharma (Reading West) and Shailesh Vara (Cambridgeshire North West). Also Elected for the first time were Suella Fernandes (Fareham), for the Conservative Party and Lisa Nandy (Wigan), for the Labour Party.

In this election there a total of 59 candidates were of Indian origin, representing different parties.

Prime Minister Cameron said that he expects that the first Asian or black Prime Minister of the United Kingdom will come from his Party.

Finally it must be noted that in spite of what looked like a traditional preference for the Labour Party, of the Indian community, these elections showed a shift is taking place towards the Tory Party. All this happened in the setting of the most diverse constitution of the Parliament in all its history.

Sources:

Staff Writer, "The class of 2015 enter Britain's most diverse ever Parliament," British Future 8 May 2015, <http://www.britishfuture.org/articles/class-of-2015-most-diverse-parliament/>

Rucha Sharma, "UK elections result," DNA India 8 May 2015, <http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-live-uk-elections-result-2084190>

Ford, R. & Grove-White, R. (2015). Migrant Voters in the 2015 General Election. London: Migrants' Rights Network and Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), The University of Manchester.

Staff Writer, "David Cameron's cabinet to have 10 Indian origin MPs," The Indian Express 9 May 2015, <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/indians-abroad/david-camersons-cabinet-to-have-10-indian-origin-mps/>

Mugdha Variyar, "UK election 2015: 10 Indian-origin MPs elected; Narayana Murthy's son-in-law Rishi Sunak wins conservative seat," International Business Times 8 May 2015, <http://www.ibtimes.co.in/uk-election-2015-10-indian-origin-mps-elected-narayana-murthys-son-law-rishi-sunak-wins-631796>

NDTV Staff, "Indian-origin MP loses election in Britain," NDTV 8 May 2015, <http://www.ndtv.com/diaspora/indian-origin-mp-loses-election-in-britain-761444>

Echoes of the Diaspora II

The democrat Loretta Sánchez, campaigning for a seat in the North American senate, commented on, in front of the Indian-American Caucus, in a restaurant near the Anaheim Convention Center (where a democrat convention was taking place), the confusion that she suffered in face of a telephone call from somebody who potentially wanted to support her, not understanding if this person was from the Indian community in the

States or was from the native American community. To this surprisingly comment, she added a gesture evoking the supposed ancestry of the person talking, imitating a sound in her voice, associated to the sounds that can be heard in cowboy and Indian movies.

At the beginning this action merited the surprise of those present and later a generalized rejection followed including one from her opponent in the same party and the General Attorney of California, Kamala Harris, who was born to an Indian mother and Jamaican father.

Another critical voice that was expressed publicly was from Sayu Bhojwani, the previous Commissioner for Migrant Affairs of New York who marked not only his amazement in face of this fact but also as a reminder that the racial insensitivity is present across all party and ethnic lines.

The protagonist of this action, Sánchez, initially rehearsed an explanation but then concentrated on publicly apologizing for this action, reasoning that "...we all commit mistakes. We are all human".

Sources:

Kelly McLaughlin, "Congresswoman causes outrage by making Native American joke and breaking into mocking 'war cry' just two days in her campaign," Daily Mail 17 May 2015.

Igor Bobic, "Senate candidate Loretta Sanchez makes disparaging gesture about native Americans," The Huffington Post 17 May 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/17/loretta-sanchez-whooping-native-americans_n_7300466.html

Indianz Staff, "Native caucus upset with Democrats in hot Senate campaign," Indianz.com 19 May 2015, <http://www.indianz.com/News/2015/017524.asp>

Steve Kornacki, "Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez insults native Americans while talking Indian Americans," MSNBC 17 May 2015, <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/congresswoman-loretta-sanchez-insults-native-americans-while-talking-indian-americans>

Narayan Lakshman, "Indian-Americans shocked at Sanchez's racist slur," The Hindu 19 May 2015.

Justin Worland, "California Senate candidate caught ridiculing native Americans," Time 17 May 2015, <http://time.com/3881889/loretta-sanchez-california-senate-native-americans/>

Books of Interest

- Appadurai, A. & Mack, A. (Eds.) (2012). *India's World. The Politics of Creativity in a Globalized Society*. New Delhi: Rain Tree.
- Singh Kahlon, S. (2012). *Sikhs in Latin America. Travels among the Sikh Diaspora*. New Delhi: Manohar.