

**Visit of H.E. Mr Juha Sipilä, Prime Minister of Finland,
to India from 12-14 February 2016**

JOINT STATEMENT

1. The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, and the Prime Minister of Finland, Mr. Juha Sipilä, held official bilateral discussions on Saturday, 13 February, 2016, in Mumbai. Prime Minister Sipilä participated in the inauguration of the Make in India Week. Prime Minister Sipilä was accompanied by a large business delegation.
2. The Prime Minister of Finland reiterated the support of Finland to India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. The two countries called for forward movement in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform, and expressed their commitment to initiate text-based negotiations within the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly. In their joint effort to strengthen global non-proliferation objectives and the multilateral export control regimes, Prime Minister Sipilä took a positive view on India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime. The Prime Minister of India thanked Finland for its support for India becoming an observer in the Arctic Council.
3. Both Prime Ministers acknowledged that there is wide convergence in views on the international political and economic situation. They condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated zero tolerance for this menace which seriously undermines international peace and security, growth and development. They emphasized the importance of ratification and implementation of all UN legal instruments to counter terrorism and encouraged enhanced efforts towards making progress on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. They also noted with concern mass migration of people in distress in conflict and volatile regions, especially in Africa and the Middle East.
4. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the need to tap the full potential of the EU-India strategic partnership, and welcomed the intention of the two sides to hold a summit in 2016. They also welcomed the prospect of resumption of talks on the India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).
5. The Prime Ministers underlined that the relations between the two countries, which are mature democracies and based on the rule of law, have always been unproblematic.
6. There are more than 100 Finnish companies established in India and some 25 Indian companies in Finland. Many of the Finnish companies in India have manufacturing plants in the country and are truly Make in India-companies. Several Finnish companies are engaged in the renewable energy and clean-tech segments. A Finnish energy company already owns two solar power plants in India and has won a bid to build a third one. A Finnish mobile phone network manufacturer has an R&D centre in India that employs 6000 people and their equipment serves 280 million mobile phone subscribers. The Indian companies in Finland are operating in diverse sectors including IT, health and tourism; they have promising prospects for enlarging their investments and involvement in Finland. The two Prime Ministers inaugurated digitally, today, Trivitron's Labsystems Diagnostics IVD (In vitro diagnostics) factory in Chennai.

7. The Prime Minister of Finland welcomed the efforts of the Indian Government and Prime Minister Modi himself in outreach to the business sector and linking with it in a meaningful manner. The Prime Minister of India mentioned that several initiatives including Ease of Doing Business have been taken to bring in consistency, clarity and predictability in policies. Both Prime Ministers agreed that seeking speedy and fair solutions to investment issues and conduct of Mutual Agreement Procedure are important elements in increasing investor confidence.

8. The Prime Minister of Finland highlighted Finland's capacities in the civil nuclear energy field. There are four reactors in operation in Finland and new ones are being built and planned. Finnish companies and relevant government agencies can offer solutions related to safety and security ecosystems in nuclear power plants.

9. Both Prime Ministers agreed that there would be a lot to gain to increase cooperation in innovation and transforming ideas into internationally marketable products. They agreed that the cooperation between universities and institutes of higher learning is an important part of this cooperation. They also agreed that digitization and the Internet of Things are emerging technologies that the innovators from both countries could take forward in cooperation. Both the leaders appreciated the on-going cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovation which had emphasis on Energy Research projects encompassing solar, hybrid and smart grid systems. DST-TEKES together also promote and support business led collaborative R&D on clean tech, biomedical devices and electronic system & design manufacturing. Both sides acknowledged the relevance of promoting technology based start-ups.

10. The two leaders noted that about 20000 Finnish tourists visit India every year and the facility of eTourist visa to Finnish nationals as also recent Indian investment in Finland in this sector is going to further facilitate people to people exchanges.

11. The two sides appreciated recent conclusion of an MoU between Civil Aviation authorities on code shares, intermodal services, routing flexibility, open sky on cargo and on domestic code-sharing; the finalization of the text of the agreement on gainful employment by dependent family members of the diplomatic staff; noted ongoing negotiations on waiver of visas for diplomatic passport holders; and the decision to move forward with a bio-refinery project for production of fuel grade Ethanol, acetic acid, furfural and bio-coal from bamboo in Assam.

12. Prime Minister Sipilä invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Finland.

13 February 2016, Mumbai