

Press Release

A Goodwill Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Mr. Surendrajeet Singh Ahluwalia visited Norway from May 31 to June 03, 2017 for promoting and strengthening parliamentary relations between the two countries.

The Parliamentary delegation comprised of Members of Parliament Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP(LS), BJD, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, MP(LS), Shri Amdayala Paddu Jithender Reddy, MP(LS),TRS, Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, MP(LS),Shiv Sena, Shri Ram Kumar Verma MP(RS), BJP, Shri Manchacheri Kuppadakkath Raghavan MP(LS),INC, Shri Palanivel Kumar, MP(LS) AIADMK, Shri Chintakunta Munaiah Ramesh, MP(RS), TDP, Shri Mohammed Faizal Padippura MP(LS), NCP and Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy, MP(LS), YSRCP and the Secretary, Parliamentary Affairs Shri Rajiv Yadav.

On June 01, 2017, the Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Minister met Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Policy and Defence, Mr. Gunnar Gundersen, Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee for Business and Industry, and Ms. Marit Berger Røsland, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. On June 02, 2017, the Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Minister met Ms. Monica Mæland, Minister of Trade and Industry; and visited the Norwegian Institute of Bio-economy Research (NIBIO), Ås, Norway.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Ahluwalia, in his meetings with Norwegian interlocutors, stated that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, hinders the enjoyment of human rights, and undermines social and economic development of democratic societies. Hon'ble Minister highlighted the need for the international community to combat terrorism, which are well- connected, well-educated well-funded, well-armed and well-trained. He reiterated that India strongly condemns terrorism and there could be no tolerance for States sheltering, arming, training, or financing terrorists.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Ahluwalia stated that both India and the Norway should work towards strengthening cooperation in areas such as, maritime cooperation, climate change, renewable energy, waste management, fisheries, agriculture, exchange of technology on horticulture and organic farming etc. He stated that introduction of Recirculation Aquaculture Systems (RAS) is fairly

new to India, whereas, Norwegian companies have expertise in this high-tech production technique. India looks to Norway for expertise and cooperation to exchange knowledge and technical expertise to develop Recirculation Aquaculture Systems (RAS).

He stated that both countries have supported each other in several initiatives in the United Nations and other multilateral for and also highlighted the need for strengthening this cooperation even further and deepen our interaction on several issues in the United Nations. He also expressed sincere appreciation for the Norwegian Government's valuable support for India's candidature for a permanent membership of reformed UN Security Council, as well as at the NSG.

Hon'ble Minister and Delegation also interacted with the Indian Community and representatives at a Reception hosted by Ambassador of India to Norway Shri Debraj Pradhan.

The visit of this high-level Parliamentary Delegation from India will further strengthen India-Norway relations.

Oslo, June 03, 2017