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Windsor Castle

27th October, 2009

The President of the Republic of India and Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat arrived at Windsor Castle today on a State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall welcomed Her Excellency and Dr. Shekhawat on behalf of Her Majesty at the Bentley Hotel, Harrington Gardens, London SW7.

The President of the Republic of India and Dr. Shekhawat, accompanied by The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, travelled by car to the Royal Dais in Datchet Road, Windsor, and were met by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

The President of the Republic of India and Dr. Shekhawat, accompanied by Her Majesty and His Royal Highness with Their Royal Highnesses, drove in a Carriage Procession to Windsor Castle with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry.

Gun Salutes were fired in the Home Park (Private) by The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and at the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company.

A Guard of Honour was provided at Windsor Castle by 1st Battalion Irish Guards, who later marched past.

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery marched past and the Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry ranked past.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and the Military Knights of Windsor were on duty.

The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP (Leader of the Opposition) later called upon The President of the Republic of India at Windsor Castle.

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Clegg MP (Leader of the Liberal Democrats) afterwards called upon Her Excellency.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a State Banquet at Windsor Castle this evening in honour of The President of the Republic of India and Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat at which The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, The Princess Royal, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent were present.

The following had the honour of being invited:

Suite of The President of the Republic of India and Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat: Shrimati Daggubati Purandeswari (Minister of State for Human Resource Development), Dr. Christy L. Fernandez (Secretary to The President), Shrimati Nirupama Rao (Foreign Secretary), His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Republic of India and Shrimati Poonam Surie, Lieutenant General Vinod Chopra (Military Secretary to The President), Shri Sunil Lal (Chief of Protocol), Shrimati Vijay Thakur Singh (Joint Secretary and Social Secretary to The President), Shri Pradeep Bhardwaj (Chief Security Liaison Officer), Shrimati Parvati Singh Bais (Physician to The President), and Major S. Shiv Shankar (Aide-de-Camp to The President).

Specially attached to The President of the Republic of India and Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat: The Lady Elton (Lady in Waiting), the Viscount Hood (Lord in Waiting) and the Viscountess Hood, Sir Richard Stagg (British High Commissioner to the Republic of India) and Lady Stagg, and Wing Commander Andrew Calame RAF (Equerry in Waiting).

Diplomatic Corps: His Excellency the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait and Mrs. Al Duwaisan), His Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden and Mrs. Marie Thofte, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mrs. Hasan, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Mrs. Jayasinghe, and His Excellency the High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Mrs. Rahman Khan.

The Cabinet and Government: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (the Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP) and Mrs Alice Perkins, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Brown, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Lord President of the Council (the Lord Mandelson), the Leader of the House of Lords (the Baroness Royall of Blaisdon) and Mr. Stuart Hercock, and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Mrs. Miliband.

Special Invitations: The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Speaker and Mr. Martin Hayman, the Lord Chief Justice and the Lady Judge, Professor the Lord Desai and the Lady Desai, the Lord Levene of Portsoken and the Lady Levene of Portsoken, the Lord Bilimoria, the Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt MP and Judge William Birtles, the Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP and Mrs. Cameron, the Rt. Hon. Nicholas Clegg MP and Ms Miriam Gonzalez-Durantez, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock and Lady Stirrup, General Sir David and Lady Richards, Sir Peter Ricketts, Sir Andrew and Lady Cahn, Sir Geoffrey Adams, Professor Dame Sandra Dawson, Sir Gulam Noon, Professor Sir Roy Anderson, Lady Judge, Mr. Simon and the Hon. Mrs. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Anish Kapoor, Major General and Mrs. William Cubitt, Ms J. K. Rowling and Dr. Neil Murray, Mr. Sanjeev Bhaskar, Mrs. Lopa Patel and Mr. Amit Patel, Mr. Frank Chapman, Mr. Maneck Dalal, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dilley, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Green, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Olver, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Popham, Professor Nathuram Puri, Mr. Peter Sands and Mrs. Betsy Tobin, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Mrs. Grey, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Witty.

Members of the Indian High Commission and the Indian Delegation:Mr. Barun Mitra (Joint Secretary to The President), Mr. Rajesh N. Prasad (Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs), Mr. Barun Mitra (Joint Secretary to The President), Shrimati Archana Datta (Officer on Special Duty, Public Relations), Mr. Asoke Mukerji (Deputy High Commissioner), Mr. Madhu P. Gavai (Minister, Political), Mr. Syed Asif Ibrahim (Minister, Coordination), Mrs. M. Subhashini (Minister, Press and Information), and Mr. Raveesh Kumar (Councillor, Political).

The Queen was represented by Mr. Charles Anson (formerly Press Secretary to The Queen) at the Funeral of Mr. Michael Shea (formerly Press Secretary to The Queen) which was held at Edinburgh Crematorium this morning.

Clarence House

27th October, 2009

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall this afternoon received the High Commissioner for Canada (His Excellency Mr. James Wright) at Windsor Castle.

Buckingham Palace

27th October, 2009

The Earl of Wessex, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this morning arrived in Sydney, Australia, from the United Kingdom.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Lunch given by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia (Ms. Quentin Bryce) at Admiralty House, Sydney.

The Earl of Wessex, Trustee, later presented Awards to young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Admiralty House.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this evening attended a Trustees' Dinner at Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour, 150 Day Street, Sydney.

Buckingham Palace

26th October, 2009

The Duke of York, Special Representative for International Trade and Investment, this morning called upon the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt at his office in Garden City, Cairo.

His Royal Highness this evening arrived at Doha International Airport from Egypt and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the State of Qatar (His Excellency Mr. John Hawkins).

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