

Mission report
Study visit to India
/26-30.10/2019/

Following the invitation of the Women's Economic and Social Think Tank /WESTT/ sent to me by its Director Ms Madi Sharma, I took part in a study visit to India.

It took place on 26-30th October. The aim of this study visit was to enhance knowledge on EU-India bilateral relations as well as to have a first-hand experience on the situation in Kashmir after the revocation of Article 370. My interest in participating in this study visit also arised from the fact, that I am the Slovak of Roma origin and India is considered to be a homeland of all Roma spread across 30 countries in 5 continents of the world.

During the visit in Delhi, various meetings with high-level politicians took place, including Prime Minister Mr. N. Modi, External Affairs Minister, Mr S. Jaishankar and Vice-President of India, Mr V. Naidu.

I also had a meeting with the representatives of business sector, Mr T. Chakrabarty, Group Government Affairs Officer of TATA Sons Motors and Mr R. Maddukuri, President of Poland/India Business Council on employment possibilities for socially disadvantaged people, such as Roma in car producing facilities /owned by TATA motors/ in my constituency also took place.

The part of this study visit was also visit to Srinagar, capital of Kashmir. This visit was the first of its kind from the international community after the revocation of its special status /Article 370/. During this visit, the meetings with different stakeholders, representing the army, local actors, youth, civil society organisations, etc. took place. As highlighted by them at these meetings, the reason for the revocation of Article 370 was a need for better governance, socio-economic development as well as for security issues.

Commander Lieutenant General K.J.S. Dhillon, in charge of keeping peace and stability in joint territories of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, created after the revocation of Article 370, and his officials informed about security and terrorist attacks by Pakistan in the mentioned territories.

On the last day of this study visit, a press conference took place.

The visit was sponsored by the International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies represented by its Chief, Mr Ankit Srivastava.

Peter Dollak
MEP



In Brussels, 19/11/2019