

Visit – Purpose and Cost

QUESTION

What is the purpose of the Governor General's visit to the United Arab Emirates, India and Pakistan and how much will it cost taxpayers?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The main purposes of the Governor General's visit are the following:
 - To celebrate 50 years of independence for India and Pakistan, and to reinforce further our relations with the UAE, India and Pakistan.
 - To highlight the human, cultural and academic ties between our countries as represented by the 600,000 Canadians who trace their ancestry to India or Pakistan
- To promote increased trade and investment linkages with the UAE, India and Pakistan.

Responsive Only

- The estimated total cost for the visit is \$700,000.

QUESTION

Is it appropriate for the Governor General to make a visit to India when there are uncertainties with the formation of the new government?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- It is expected that a new government will be formed by 19 March. The creation of a new Government is of course important for the visit inasmuch as the Governor General hopes to meet the new Prime Minister, and Minister Dhaliwal plans to meet with selected ministers. The objectives of the visit, however, build on the human, cultural, academic and economic ties, all of which can be pursued independently.