



Ministry of External Affairs Annual Report 2015-16







Annual Report 2015-16

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The front cover depicts South Block, seat of Ministry of External Affairs since 1947. The back cover is a collage of various shots of the outer and the inner precincts of Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs' new building since June 2011, that was, according to a recent survey conducted by CPWD in July 2015, adjudged as the best office building and topped the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) ratings among the 49 government buildings in the capital that were screened for overall cleanliness.

The inside of the cover pages display a collage of pictures taken during visits of foreign dignitaries to India and outgoing visits of Hon'ble President, Vice President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Minister of State, External Affairs.

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Introduction and Synopsis

The period between April 2015 and March 2016 saw renewed energy, vigour, and planning in India's engagement with the rest of the world. The Government built further on the foreign policy priorities it had defined during its first few months in office, to achieve concrete results in a number of areas. There were elements of both continuity and change, as foreign policy acquired greater visibility not just internationally but also domestically.

India increasingly came to occupy a new role in the world, as a confident, articulate, rising power, willing to claim its place on the global high table and able to discharge its responsibilities. No longer content to merely react to international developments, we frequently acted to shape and even initiate them. On its part, the world visibly acknowledged India's potential to act as a leading power, under a determined and decisive leadership with a regional and global vision. Consequently, India's voice played a prominent role in shaping the global debates on issues ranging from global governance reform, climate change, multilateral trade negotiations, internet governance & cyber-security, and trans-national terrorism.

Our immediate neighbourhood remained the area of greatest attention and emphasis during this period, under an articulated policy of 'Neighbourhood First'. Through regular exchanges and a willingness to take bold decisions, progress was seen in our relationship with every neighbouring country. A historic boundary agreement with Bangladesh brought new hope not only to the lives of people living in enclaves on either side of the border but to the overall confidence and trust levels between the two countries. The earthquake in Nepal saw India establish its role of a responsible provider of emergency relief and long-term reconstruction in the region, and won widespread public appreciation for the speed and efficacy of the Indian response. Relations with Sri Lanka became progressively warmer and more substantive as we continued engaging with the new Government of President Sirisena. For the first time, India outlined a comprehensive vision for the Indian Ocean region focused on security and growth for all the littoral states, and promised to use growing Indian capacities

to address shared threats like piracy, smuggling, environmental degradation and natural disasters in the Indian Ocean. India maintained strong and substantive linkages with all political forces in Myanmar as this important neighbour underwent a historic election. The results of the election have created a new political reality in Myanmar, setting the stage for long-term productive engagement which is especially relevant for the development of India's northeastern states. With Bhutan, a traditionally close and mutually beneficial relationship was further consolidated, including by accelerating important projects. India reiterated its commitment and support for a stable, prosperous and peaceful Afghanistan through multiple engagements with its leadership, including Prime Minister's visit to inaugurate the new Afghan Parliament building. The Government took the initiative to revive a dialogue process with Pakistan, thus reiterating its commitment to regional peace and shared development in South Asia while keeping a firm focus on addressing issues related to terror.

Another important area of diplomatic focus was the continued engagement with the major powers of the world. Through high-level engagement with the US, China, UK, France, Germany, Japan, and Russia, India leveraged all these important relationships to increase the flow of trade, investment and technologies into the Indian economy. In each bilateral relationship, the Government successfully created the contours of mutually beneficial gains, based on a careful evaluation of opportunities and complementarities and an articulation of concerns where needed. This required an ability to adopt a paradigm of confident engagement with simultaneous pursuit of different interests with various partners while maintaining a cohesive unity in our overall strategic vision.

The period under review saw other changes in India's engagement with important regions of the world. Instead of restricting our outreach to each country separately, we approached regions in an integrated and holistic way, leveraging our complementarities across linked bilateral relationships. We also expanded the footprint of India's

diplomatic engagement to cover new regions and countries, including through high-level visits to countries that had not seen such engagement in the past or where there had been long gaps since the last such engagement. These trends were apparent in Prime Minister's visit to all the Central Asian Republics, his visits to the Indian Ocean island countries including Sri Lanka, his engagement with the Pacific Island countries (followed later by the organisation of the Pacific Islands Forum Summit), and the highly successful hosting of the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi. These engagements helped to cement existing ties, create new linkages and demonstrated India's ability to plan and coordinate its engagement with different parts of the world by integrating interests and coordinating cultural and civilisational ties.

In the multilateral arena, India made notable contributions to the working of important groupings like the G20, BRICS, Commonwealth and the SCO. Prime Minister used the G20 forum to call for international cooperation for ensuring the return of black money to the country of origin by addressing the barriers of excessive banking secrecy and complex regulatory frameworks. The BRICS grouping saw the operationalisation of two key India-backed initiatives - the US\$ 50 billion New Development Bank and the US\$ 100 billion Contingent Reserve Agreement. At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India was approved for elevation from Observer status to a full-time member. Within the UN, Indian efforts led to the commencement of text-based negotiations on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, which opens up the possibility of India being accorded its rightful place as a permanent member of this body. At the 21st Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, India highlighted the need for a true global partnership to fight catastrophic climate change, emphasised the ambitious targets that India has set for itself to expand clean and renewable energy, and called upon the developed world to also set ambitious targets for themselves and to ensure availability of affordable clean energy to the developing countries so that they can continue to develop within the remaining carbon space. Our engagement with the ASEAN grouping and its associated bodies re-established the strength of the strong dialogue architecture we have built with this regional body, and was an important part of the Government's Act East agenda.

In all these bilateral and multilateral engagements, which are detailed in the following pages, there are a few defining characteristics and trends that merit special mention.

Probably the most significant trend during the year was the increased emphasis placed by government in establishing close linkages between our foreign policy and our domestic developmental aspirations. Over the past 12 months, our international outreach has been carefully tailored and directed to create the most propitious climate for domestic growth, including by working towards a regional security environment that allows us to focus on our economic goals.

Our interactions with countries like USA, Japan, China, UK, Germany, France, Russia, Republic of Korea, UAE, Malaysia and Singapore have focused on giving shape to the Government's 'Make in India' programme by showcasing the favourable investment climate being created in India. This proactive outreach has already shown results in a significant increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows over the past 12 months, which are expected to accelerate even further in the coming year. The fact that India emerged over the past year as the fastest growing major economy in the world is testimony to this positive narrative. The launch of the India-US Infrastructure Collaboration Platform; the Japanese support for the Chennai Metro Project, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train, the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor and for improvement of road network in our northeastern states; the launch of the UAE-India Infrastructure Investment Fund with a target investment of US\$ 75 billion; and the India-UK Partnership Fund are just some of the notable recent bilateral mechanisms that herald fresh waves of foreign investment for development of physical infrastructure.

For directly supporting the Make in India programme, Japan and India finalised the 'Make in India Special Finance Facility' of US\$ 12 billion. Agreements were signed with Chinese companies for over US\$ 22 billion dollars of investments in renewable energy, power, steel and SME sectors. Republic of Korea pledged US\$ 10 billion for infrastructure development in India. A number of German companies committed to invest in diverse sectors like renewable energy, skill development, civil aviation. The BHARAT fund was launched in San Jose, California to encourage startup investment in India, and an India-US Innovation Forum was set up to create a favourable environment for new technologies.

Defence manufacturing was a bold new area of emphasis within the Make in India programme, and the past year saw commitments by US, French and Russian companies to set up manufacturing facilities in India for some of their platforms, in partnership with Indian counterparts.

The Government's ambition to create a 100 Smart Cities has similarly benefited from an energetic diplomatic outreach. Memoranda of Understanding were signed with USA to transform three historical cities - Vishakhapatnam, Allahabad and Ajmer - into Smart Cities. France committed over 2 billion Euros for investment in the Indian smart cities, with special focus on Chandigarh, Nagpur and Puducherry. City partnerships were signed with UK in respect of Indore, Pune and Amaravati. Similarly, a joint committee was set up to plan German investment in developing 3 smart cities, along with a promised German investment of 360 million Euros towards sustainable urban development. China, Malaysia and Singapore also showed concrete interest in partnering India for development of modern urban infrastructure over the coming years. For a rapidly urbanising India, these commitments open the way for a dignified and comfortable life for millions of our future urban citizens.

Indian railways have long been in need of modernisation and upgradation. The past year saw important agreements being signed with countries having proven competence and technologies in the railway sector, for an ambitious modernisation agenda. This included the agreement with Japan for building India's first bullet train link between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Similarly, a project finalised with China will see speed being raised on the Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysore line, whereas agreement was reached with France to fund metro infrastructure in Bangalore, Kochi and Nagpur and for assistance in upgrading the Chandigarh-Delhi railway link to a high-speed connection. Government took a decision to float rupee bonds in London for financing railway infrastructure. A Transport Partnership was also signed with USA to help India develop secure and integrated transportation systems.

The focus on transport connectivity went beyond our own borders. The Motor Vehicles Agreement between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal was finalised, leading to easier road movement within the region. India committed a US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit for projects that would enhance connectivity between India and the ASEAN region.

Considerable progress was achieved on the Trilateral Highway project linking India, Myanmar and Thailand as well as on the Kaladan multi-modal transport project. Beyond our western borders, Indian investment in the Chabahar port in Iran as well as in the International North South Transport Corridor opened the way for faster movement of goods and people between India, Iran, Central Asia and West Asia.

The Skill India programme complements Make in India by planning for the upgradation of the country's human capital for future manufacturing prowess. For a country with India's young demographic profile, the ambitious objective of training 400 million people over the next decade is a vital guarantee of continued job growth and economic equity. Our diplomatic efforts over the past year saw important initiatives launched with countries like USA, Canada, Germany, UK, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia to bring investment and best practices into the task of training young Indians for tomorrow's industries.

Bridging the digital divide through the Digital India programme is one of Government's top domestic priorities. Infusion of investment, technologies and incubation of IT companies in India figured prominently in our diplomatic outreach to countries like Germany, UK, Japan and especially when Prime Minister visited the Silicon Valley in USA. Major investment commitments in India were made by a number of companies like Microsoft, Qualcomm, and Google. India also took a nuanced and forward-looking stance on the issue of internet governance, thus contributing to a progressive development of the global debate on protecting the freedom and unified nature of the internet, while allowing Governments to protect the legitimate security interests of their citizens.

Energy diplomacy was another area where the past 12 months saw significant activity and attention. The focus was on green energy, where the most notable development was the launch of a pioneering International Solar Alliance with its secretariat in Gurgaon. India and USA launched a US\$ 30 million initiative to scale up integration of renewables into India's power grid. Agreements with Japan, UK, Canada, Kazakhstan and France also gave impetus to the growth of the renewable energy and the civil nuclear sector in India. In the area of hydrocarbon based energy, some progress was made on operationalising the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline.

Apart from indigenous manufacturing, Government also focused on augmenting defence preparedness through proactive strategic dialogues with our key partners, and by working together to acquire and develop modern defence platforms for the Indian armed services. The India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative was a notable instrument and progress was made on four Pathfinder projects under this. India and US also activated Joint Working Groups to explore design and development of aircraft carrier technology and Jet Engine Technology. An enabling agreement opened the way for transfer of defence equipment and technology from Japan. We also strengthened our maritime security cooperation with countries like USA, Japan, France, Mauritius, Seychelles, Malaysia and Singapore.

Terrorism continued to be the principal scourge of the modern world over the past year, vindicating the long-held Indian calls for united global action against it. Prime Minister reiterated calls for the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism at major multilateral fora. Government established cooperative mechanisms with partner countries like USA, Russia, France, UK and Japan to disrupt terrorist financial flows and to identify assets of terror groups. A number of high-profile fugitives were successfully brought back to face Indian law by securing their extradition or deportation through diplomatic cooperation with the countries where they were sheltering. India and UAE agreed to set up a Strategic Security Dialogue and to enhance counter-terror cooperation. A ministerial mechanism to combat terrorism was also agreed with China. A dialogue at the level of National Security Advisors with Pakistan has been initiated to discuss terrorism related concerns.

While focusing diplomacy to support our domestic development, India also continued its policy of sharing its developmental lessons with the rest of the developing world. This was seen not just in a number of initiatives in our immediate neighbourhood, but also in the landmark Third India-Africa Forum Summit and the Summit of the Pacific Island countries in New Delhi. A major announcement of a US\$ 10 billion Line of Credit for development projects in Africa was announced during the IAFS, apart from grant assistance of US\$ 600 million. Significant developmental projects were also progressed in most of our neighbouring countries as well as in Mauritius, Seychelles, Jordan, Palestine, and Mongolia. Human capital development in the form of scholarships and training slots continued to be a big part of

India's development cooperation abroad. The past year also saw India set up Information Technology Institutes in a number of countries and launch projects for tele-education and tele-medicine.

Cultural diplomacy was one more area that saw remarkable success over the past year. Leveraging India's civilisational values and ethos as a force-multiplier allowed us to project a unique message on issues like sustainable development. The worldwide celebration of the International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2015 was an acknowledgment of India's cultural voice and values. Cultural festivals and commemorative weeks were organised in a number of countries including Japan, China and Russia over the course of the year.

The year saw India reconnect with the 27 million strong NRI and PIO populations across the world in an unprecedented manner. Prime Minister addressed enthusiastic audiences of Indians and Indian-origin people in numerous cities including New York, Sydney, Paris, Toronto, San Francisco, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and London. All of them showed their pride in the success story being charted by their mother country and sought ways to contribute to its growth and development. The 10th World Hindi Conference in Bhopal saw the largest ever participation of expatriate Indians and Hindi scholars from all over the world. Apart from the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas gathering in New Delhi in January 2016, Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebrations were earlier organised in Los Angeles and London.

The Ministry also made a concerted effort to make its public service delivery functions more efficient and user-friendly for citizens as well as foreign visitors. An online grievance redressal system called MADAD was launched to allow Indian citizens abroad to seek assistance from our Missions and Posts. The PIO and OCI schemes were merged to cater to a long-standing demand. Passport applications saw a large jump from the previous year with the organisation of 123 Passport Seva Camps and 401 Passport Melas, and the opening of new Passport Seva Kendras in the northeastern states. Passport processing time was reduced to under 21 days for 96% of the applications. Perhaps the greatest effort mounted by the Ministry to aid its citizens abroad was the evacuation exercise from war-stricken Yemen, where more than 4700 stranded Indians were successfully rescued. Indian forces also rescued nearly 2000 foreign citizens from about 50 countries, which won the country much appreciation and established it as a

stabilising net-security provider in the region.

To address the increasingly complex nature of diplomatic challenges, the Ministry significantly strengthened its own internal planning and strategising abilities by enlarging the size and mandate of its Policy Planning & Research Division. The Ministry made an energetic effort to engage with the strategic community based in research institutions within and outside India. For the first time, external expertise was formally brought into the Ministry through contractual engagement of subject matter specialists. Dialogues focused on exchanges of long-term geostrategic perspectives were also initiated with some of our partner countries.

Another unique effort of the Government was to increasingly involve the State Governments in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy. Recognising that the States have a critical role to play, particularly in the success of commercial and cultural diplomacy, the newly created States Division of the Ministry has proactively reached out to all State Governments. It is helping them in identifying their target countries and regions for commercial, cultural, academic, tourism and diaspora outreach, and in fashioning appropriate strategies for maximising the gains from international interaction. The year also saw the signature of a number of twinning agreements between Indian and foreign cities/provinces, to foster closer cooperation for urban development, cultural propagation, heritage conservation and people-to-people links. A Provincial-State Leaders forum was launched between India and China to encourage sub-national cooperation between the two countries.

The following pages comprehensively flesh the trends mentioned above by chronicling the details of our bilateral and multilateral engagements, as well as the activities of the service and support arms of the Ministry of External Affairs. Taken together they tell the story of an exceptionally energetic year in the area of foreign policy, with many achievements and successes that raised India's profile in the world. They also provide an indication of the tasks which would continue to occupy the Ministry's attention in the coming year.

Neighbours

Afghanistan: President Ashraf Ghani's maiden and State Visit to India in April 2015 and PM's visit to Afghanistan on 25 December 2015 underscored the longstanding, growing and deep bilateral ties between India and Afghanistan.

They were further strengthened with PM and President Ghani jointly dedicating the Afghan Parliament building, constructed with Indian cooperation, to the Afghan nation, and provision of Mi-25 helicopters by India for strengthening Afghanistan's defensive capabilities. The visits of EAM to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process for regional cooperation on Afghanistan and also important visits of the Afghan NSA and the Deputy Foreign Minister added to the intense bilateral interactions. As part of India's commitments to transform Afghanistan into a trade, transit and energy hub linking Central and South Asia and also to enhance its connectivity to the regional markets, India would host the next (Sixth) Ministerial conference of the Heart of Asia process in the last quarter of 2016.

Bangladesh: India's close relations with Bangladesh were further strengthened through various initiatives taken during the course of the year. Decisions taken during Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka in June 2015 have drawn the two countries closer together. It is notable that in the last few years, there has been progress on issues that have eluded solution for decades. India and Bangladesh have worked closely to strengthen bilateral cooperation on all issues including settlement of land boundary issues, security, infrastructure development, cooperation in power, trade and investments, connectivity, sub-regional cooperation and people to people exchange.

Bhutan: India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by deep mutual trust and understanding. Following bilateral visits to Bhutan by Prime Minister in June 2014 and Rashtrapati in November 2014, the year 2015-16 saw sustained progress in all areas of cooperation, including hydropower, transport, communication, infrastructure, health, education, culture, IT industry and agriculture. The momentum of bilateral ties was carried forward by high level visits and interactions. A Bhutanese Parliamentary delegation led jointly by the Speaker of the National Assembly Lyonpo Jigme Zangpo and Chairman of the National Council Dr. Sonam Kinga visited India from 9-14 August 2015. Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Tshering Tobgay met the Prime Minister on the sidelines of the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015 in New York. PM Tobgay visited India from 13-17 November 2015 to attend the 2nd India Ideas Conclave 2015 in Goa, and thereafter from 6-9 January 2016 to participate in the 'Bengal Global Business

Summit 2016' in Kolkata. Work on development projects progressed at a healthy pace throughout this period under the Government of India assistance package of 4500 crores towards the 11th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2013-18). India has committed Rs. 2800 crore as Project Tied Assistance (PTA), Rs. 850 crore for Programme Grant and Rs. 850 crore for Small Development Projects (SDPs) for Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan.

China: India-China bilateral relations continued on the high growth trajectory during 2015. There was expanded engagement both in terms of high-level political exchanges and economic interactions. Prime Minister Modi's visit to China in May 2015 was a significant landmark in our bilateral engagement. India and China agreed that their simultaneous re-emergence as two major powers in the region and the world offers a momentous opportunity for realisation of the Asian Century. Both Countries agreed to pursue their respective national developmental goals and security interests in a mutually supportive manner and in a spirit of mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns, interests and aspirations.

Closer Developmental Partnership which is at the core of India-China bilateral relations received a further boost during PM Modi's visit with the signing of an unprecedented 24 agreements/MOUs in areas including railways, trade and commerce, science and technology, space and people to people exchanges along with 26 commercial/business agreements amounting to US\$ 22 billion.

Other important visits during the course of the year included visit of Home Minister in November 2015. Visits from the Chinese side include Chairman NPC in June 2015, Vice President of China and Vice-Chairman of Central Military Commission in November 2015, Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR in February 2016.

Myanmar: Relations between India and Myanmar are multi-faceted and rooted in shared historical, ethnic and cultural ties. Bilateral cooperation between India and Myanmar is aimed at promotion of inclusive growth and development and to contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in two countries and in the region.

India-Myanmar relations were further strengthened in the last year through exchange of high level visits and setting

up of institutionalized mechanisms to carry forward our cooperation in various sectors. Of particular significance was visit to India of the Myanmar Foreign Minister for the first meeting of the newly established India Myanmar Joint Consultative Commission intended to promote all-round development of relations in promising areas for cooperation covering security and defence, trade and investment, development partnership activities, global and multilateral issues etc.

Nepal: India-Nepal friendship and cooperation has been characterized by open borders, extensive people-to-people ties and multi-faceted socio-economic interaction. India was in the forefront of providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to Nepal following the earthquake in April 2015, being the first country to respond with its largest ever disaster relief operation appropriately called "Operation Maitri". External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj participated in the International Donor's Conference in Nepal for post-earthquake reconstruction in June 2015 and announced an assistance of US\$1 billion to Nepal (one-fourth of which is in the form of grant), the largest pledge among all international donors, over and above our existing assistance to Nepal of US\$1 billion over the next five years.

India continues to support Nepal in its transition to a prosperous, peaceful, stable and democratic country. In view of the violence and agitation in the Terai areas of Nepal in the run-up to and after the promulgation of the new Constitution in Nepal on 20 September 2015, India reiterated that issues facing Nepal were political and internal to Nepal and should be resolved through dialogue in an atmosphere free from violence, and institutionalized in a manner that would enable broad-based ownership and acceptance. India has also clarified that there is no hindrance by India to supplies going to Nepal and obstructions are by the Nepalese population on the Nepalese side, in which GoI cannot interfere. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated newly elected PM Shri K.P.S. Oli on 11 October 2015 and hoped that he would carry all sections of society along so there is peace and stability in Nepal. A similar message was conveyed during the visits of the Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Kamal Thapa, in October 2015 and December 2015.

Two Constitutional Amendments on the issues of proportional inclusion and constituency delimitation were

passed by the Parliament of Nepal on 23 January 2016. India regarded this as a positive development, and hoped that other outstanding issues would be similarly settled in a constructive spirit.

Prime Minister of Nepal Shri K.P. Sharma Oli, in his first visit abroad after assuming office, visited India from 19-24 February 2016. This was preceded by a preparatory visit to India by the Finance Minister of Nepal Shri Bishnu Poudel on 7-8 February 2016. During PM Oli's visit, wide-ranging discussions on the entire gamut of India-Nepal relations were held, including developments in Nepal, as well as bilateral cooperation in the areas of reconstruction, energy and culture.

Pakistan: The period 2015-16 saw high-level engagements, both formal and informal, focused on normalising relations between the two countries, paving the way towards a meaningful dialogue. A beginning was made in form of agreement of the two countries to a new Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue to address all outstanding issues through peaceful means. Nevertheless, cross-border terrorism, ceasefire violations and infiltrations across the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) remained our core concerns. In keeping with India's long-standing policy of strengthening relations with Pakistan through peaceful bilateral dialogue, PM met PMNS on the sidelines of the SCO summit on 10 July in Ufa (Russia). During the meeting, the two sides agreed on a meeting in New Delhi between the two NSAs to discuss all issues connected to terrorism, early meetings of DG BSF and DG Pakistan Rangers followed by that of DGMOs, and discussions on ways and means to expedite the Mumbai case trial including additional information like providing voice samples. National Security Advisers' (NSAs') meeting in August 2015 could not take place owing to Pakistan's continued insistence on inviting Hurriyat representatives to consult with the visiting NSA and attempts to unilaterally expand the agenda of the meeting. During his visit to Paris to attend COP21 Summit on 30 November 2015 PM exchanged courtesies with PMNS. The two leaders had a brief conversation without aides during which they discussed the need for the two countries to find a mutually acceptable way to create an atmosphere for re-engaging with each other. Following PM's conversation with PMNS in Paris and in line with the Ufa understanding, the NSAs of the two countries met in Bangkok on 6 December 2015. EAM visited Islamabad on 9 December 2015 to attend the 5th

Ministerial Conference on Heart of Asia. PM stopped over in Lahore on 25 December 2015 on his way back from Kabul where he had arrived for a brief visit the same morning to inaugurate the Afghanistan Parliament building constructed with Indian cooperation. PM's stop over at Lahore at a short notice underscored the vision of India's leadership to build a normal and well connected neighbourhood in South Asia, including through innovative and informal means.

Indian Ocean Region: 2015 saw a concerted focus by India on securing interests in a safe and secure Indian Ocean and a stable and prosperous Indian Ocean Region. The direction was set with Prime Minister's visits to Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka in March 2015. The process was given form through the creation of a separate Division in MEA in January 2016 for the Indian Ocean Region, bringing together relationships with key countries in the region such as Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and the structured Trilateral Maritime Security Dialogue (between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives) to address geo-strategic security, economic and developmental interests in the Indian Ocean Region. India's approach to the future track of the Indian Ocean Region Association (IORA) was also made integral to this approach.

Sri Lanka: India-Sri Lanka relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift during the last year. Bilateral relations reached a new high in 2015 with a number of high level visits. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe paid an official visit to India from 14-16 September 2015. This was his first overseas visit after the Parliamentary elections in August 2015. India's relationship with Sri Lanka has been progressing in keeping with the "neighbourhood first" principle. Since 2005, the Government of India has committed INR 2,300 crore as grant assistance and INR 12,900 crore under Lines of Credit for the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons and reconstruction of infrastructure in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. India's flagship project of assistance to Sri Lanka - the Housing Project, with an overall commitment of over INR 1,372 crore in grants, is progressing well and completion of second phase is expected shortly. Projects completed in 2015 include the Mahatma Gandhi International Centre in Matale, Language Labs in Ampara, Matara, Badulla and Jaffna and a 200 bed ward complex in Vavuniya. Bilateral cooperation has continued to expand in various areas particularly, defence, economic, education, agriculture, development partnership,

culture and people to people exchanges. The 1st Indian Coast Guard-to-Sri Lankan Coast Guard Staff Talks were held on 8-10 September 2015 in Colombo. Indian Coast Guard Ship Varaha was gifted to Sri Lanka in August 2015 as a goodwill gesture. Bilateral trade and investment continued to grow, spurred by growth in both economies. Trade between the two countries has grown rapidly to rise to US\$ 7.45 billion in 2014-15. In the investment field, India is one of the major foreign investors in Sri Lanka, with cumulative investments of nearly US\$ 1 billion since 2003. India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner globally, while Sri Lanka is India's second largest trading partner in the SAARC. India continued to be the largest source of tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka in 2015.

Maldives: 2015 marked the 50th Anniversary of establishment of India-Maldives diplomatic relations. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Maldives from 10-11 October 2015 for the 5th India-Maldives Joint Commission, which was held after a hiatus of 15 years. In an unprecedented mark of respect, President of Maldives Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and all his senior Cabinet Ministers visited the Indian High Commission in Male to sign the condolence book and pay homage to late former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Maldives as part of his SAARC Yatra from 3-4 August 2015. Foreign Secretary Dr. Ali Naseer visited India from 7-8 August 2015 to attend a round table discussion organized by Delhi Policy Group on Indo-Maldives Relations. Bilateral defence and security co-operation broadened and deepened further into several areas including defence hardware and capacity building including monthly EEZ surveillance by Indian Navy ships and aircraft was conducted, holding of EKUVERIN 2015, a joint Indian Army-MNDF Marine Corps training exercise in Trivandrum, participation by India, Sri Lanka and Maldives in the second 2nd Table Top Exercise (TTEX -15), handing over of Phase-I of the Composite Training Centre for Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) - a project funded by India, etc.

Mauritius: India and Mauritius enjoy close political, economic, cultural and diaspora linkages. 70% of the population of Mauritius is of Indian origin. Mauritius is a hub for financial services and has emerged as the largest route for FDI into India. Mauritius is also an important jurisdiction for Indian investments into Africa. India-Mauritius trade is nearly US\$ 2 billion. There is close defence

partnership on issues of maritime security. The India-Mauritius partnership further intensified and broadened in scope during this period. Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth led the Mauritian delegation at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit held in Delhi in October 2015. The visit followed the visit of Prime Minister to Mauritius in March 2015, when he was the Chief Guest at the National Day of Mauritius and a series of bilateral agreements were finalised. This was followed by an Official visit by the President of Mauritius Dr Mrs Ameenah Gurib Fakim, recently elected as the first woman President of Mauritius, to India in December 2015. The Indian Naval and Coast Guard Ships visited Mauritius during 2015 to undertake joint surveillance and patrolling of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in addition to conducting Hydrographic Surveys.

Seychelles: 2015 marked a special year in India-Seychelles partnership that encompasses development partnership, capacity building programmes, maritime security cooperation, and cultural exchanges. Blue economy, climate change, renewable energy, tourism and health are the emerging areas of focus. 10% of the population of Seychelles is of India origin. Within months of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Seychelles (March 2015), President James Alix Michel of Seychelles paid a State Visit to India from 25-27 August 2015. In the field of development assistance, India provided a grant of US\$ 4.3 million for procurement of public transportation buses, medicines, ICT equipment and educational items. To facilitate people-to-people contacts and travel, Seychelles has been included in the e-Tourist Visa scheme of the Government of India from August 2015. A Bilateral Air Services agreement was signed in August 2015. The period also witnessed further deepening of the strategic India-Seychelles defence and security cooperation, focusing in particular on maritime safety and surveillance of the extensive Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles. There was a significant Indian presence at the Seychelles National Day celebrations on 29 June 2015.

South East Asia and the Asia-Pacific

Australia: The last visit of Prime Minister to Australia in 2014 imparted a strong momentum to the bilateral relationship. Australia is emerging as an important partner in different sectors including development of mineral resources, science and technology, education and skills and water resources management. PM Malcolm Turnbull met our PM on the

sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Turkey on 15 November 2015 and announced the ratification of the bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. This enables Australian companies to commence uranium exports to India. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop visited India from 12-15 April 2015 for the Annual Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with EAM and she also officially inaugurated the Australian Consulate in Chennai. Defence cooperation received a strong boost through the first ever bilateral maritime exercise AUSINDEX that was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 11-17 September 2015. The Indian community in Australia continues to grow in size and importance. Australian universities have attracted almost 50,000 students from India and India is now regarded as the largest source of skilled migrants.

Brunei Darussalam: Bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam continued to be very close and friendly and Brunei remained Country Coordinator for India in ASEAN till June 2015. Likewise previous years, official level visits took place between the two countries including from the National Defence College of India, ISRO, and, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei. Since 2012, officers from Indian armed forces have regularly attended the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command Staff Course at Staff College, Brunei.

Cambodia: Bilateral relations between India and Cambodia remained cordial, friendly and continued to grow stronger. India and Cambodia have close civilization and cultural links from ancient times which continues today. To further strengthen our bilateral relations, Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari led a high level delegation visit to Cambodia from 15-17 September 2015. A Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation and an agreement on Indian Grant Assistance for implementation of Quick Impact Projects under Mekong Ganga Cooperation initiative were signed during the visit. For the financial year 2015-16, Grant Assistance of US\$ 50,000 each for five Quick Impact Projects related to health, women empowerment, and agriculture and skill development was also announced. The first and second phases of conservation and restoration work of Ta Prohm Temple were completed successfully by the Archeological Survey of India in July 2015.

Indonesia: The year 2015 witnessed many high-level political engagements that have helped in reinvigorating our

relationship and has provided the necessary momentum to the bilateral relations. Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India visited Indonesia from 1-4 November 2015. India-Indonesia Defence Cooperation witnessed significant qualitative and quantitative enhancement in the year 2015. India's trade with Indonesia for the period January-September 2015 (latest data available) was US\$ 11 billion which includes import of commodities worth US\$ 8.9 billion and export of US\$ 2.1 billion worth goods.

Lao PDR: The year saw a continued upward trend in bilateral relations with Lao PDR. Infrastructure projects in areas of irrigation systems, power transmission, capacity building and human resources and cultural cooperation in restoration of heritage monuments and regular high level visits were focus of cooperation. Added to this were 100-150 scholarships given to Lao students and technical personnel for undergoing training programmes and regular courses of study in India under various schemes. The year saw the first ever visit of Indian Vice President to Lao PDR on 17-18 September 2015.

Malaysia: Bilateral relations with Malaysia, marked by traditional friendship and cordiality, have continued to progress and expand. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook an official visit to Malaysia on 23 November 2015. Earlier, PM Narendra Modi participated in the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit on 21-22 November 2015. The PM inaugurated the Torana Gate in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, a gift from India to Malaysia. A Joint Statement for Enhanced Strategic Partnership was issued after the visit.

New Zealand: India's relations with New Zealand continued to progress in various fields such as economic, scientific, cultural, people-to-people contact and coordination on regional and issues of global importance. A Goodwill Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skills Development, Entrepreneurship and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited New Zealand from 1-3 June 2015 for strengthening ties between the Parliaments of both countries. The delegation also used the opportunity to gain insights about the facilities in New Zealand for vocational training and skill development, prospects of strengthening India-NZ economic & commercial ties and for interacting with the local Indian community.

The Philippines: India-Philippines partnership continued to strengthen in the period. The 3rd edition of the bi-annual Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, the highest institutionalized bilateral mechanism, was held on 14 October 2015 in New Delhi. The defence cooperation continued to strengthen with the visit of INS Sahyadri on a goodwill visit to Manila from 01-04 November 2015. Trade relations between India and the Philippines remained steady at US\$ 1.8 billion, despite global downturn, during the first half of FY 2015-16 with a positive trade balance in India's favour. Indian investment in the Philippines has been characterised by presence of a large number of major Indian IT and Pharma firms who continue to do well in the IT enabled services and the generics sector respectively. A new trend of Indian investment is now visible in sectors such as infrastructure, automobiles, renewable energy and agriculture.

Singapore: Bilateral relations with Singapore were elevated to a new level of Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Singapore on 23 & 24 November 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. A Joint Statement was issued which outlined areas of cooperation and mutual interest. Defence cooperation between India and Singapore was strengthened by the signing of the enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement. Further, the Technical Agreement on sharing White Shipping Information between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy was operationalized during PM's visit. Besides, there were regular exchanges between the three Services and the defence establishments of India and Singapore. India and Singapore have close economic and commercial ties which has shown some declining trends during the current year (17 per cent decline in the volume of bilateral trade). The total bilateral trade for FY 2015-16 (April-October) was US\$ 8.6 billion with Indian export of US\$ 4.2 billion. The outward Indian FDI to Singapore increased from US\$ 351 million in 2004-05 to US\$ 38.9 billion (October 2015) with Singapore being one of the most favoured destinations for Indian investments abroad. This year (1 Apr - 31 Oct 2015), Indian investments in Singapore has reached US\$ 2.18 billion. Singapore is the second largest source of FDI for India, the total inward FDI from Singapore to India from April 2000 to September 2015 being US\$ 38.9 billion. Singapore is the largest investor so far this year with FDI Inflows from Singapore (1 April - 30 September 2015) amounting to US\$ 6.69 billion.

Thailand: India's relationship with Thailand continued to deepen and strengthen during the year with the exchange of high-level visits and enhanced interactions at all levels. Bilateral trade for the period January - September 2015 was US\$ 6.18 billion. The first meeting of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on Maritime Cooperation and Legal and Judicial Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 27 & 28 October 2015. Four meetings of Transport Ministry Officials of India, Myanmar and Thailand on the finalization of Motor Vehicles Agreement of the Trilateral Highway were held. In 2015, around 1 million Indian tourists visited Thailand and over 100,000 Thai tourists visited India.

Vietnam: The strategic partnership between India and Vietnam was consolidated further during the year 2015-16. Economic cooperation was accorded strategic priority, even as efforts continued to implement decisions taken at the highest level, encompassing all areas of the bilateral comprehensive cooperation. A Joint Vision Statement for the period 2015-2020 on Defence Cooperation and a MoU on cooperation between the Coast Guards of the two countries was signed. Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has seen continuous growth over the past few years. India is now among the top ten trading partners of Vietnam. Both sides agreed on a new trade target of US\$ 15 bn by 2020. Bilateral defence relation is broadening and deepening into all the areas of defence co-operation including defence production. Vietnam has, over the years, been a large recipient of training programmes under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

Countries of Pacific Islands: The 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was held in Jaipur on 21 August 2015. Three Heads of States from Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau; Vice President from Micronesia; six Heads of Governments from Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; and Deputy Prime Minister/Ministers/Special Envoy from Solomon Islands, Tonga, Cook Islands and Kiribati participated in the Summit.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) The India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership has acquired new momentum in 2015-16, following the enunciation of the "Act-East Policy" by the Prime Minister at the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summits in November 2014. ASEAN is the anchor of India's Act East Policy and India has continued to deepen its political, security, defence and

economic ties with ASEAN member states in the course of the year, including by establishing an independent Mission to ASEAN. It has also pro-actively engaged with the various ASEAN centric fora shaping the evolving regional architecture, notably the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+) and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). With the entry into force of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area on 1 July 2015 and the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015, India looks forward to greater integration with ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific.

East Asia

East Asia forms part of India's extended neighbourhood. Cultural, trade and people to people contacts with the region go back several centuries. Shared values and traditions of peaceful co-existence, pluralism and peace symbolized by Buddhism have provided the glue to this engagement. India's rising political and security stature and its readiness to play a more active role in International relations combined with a growing economic heft is powering closer integration between India and East Asia. India's burgeoning engagement with East Asia and vice-versa is primarily driven by the twin logic of economics and security. India desires an inclusive, rule-based, pluralistic and balanced regional architecture conjoined by shared values and win-win opportunities in both the economic and security realms.

A peaceful and stable East Asia is integral to India's economic development. A substantial volume of India's trade is with the countries of this region. It is important that there is an agreement on the principles of international law and peaceful settlement of disputes; freedom of navigation and overflight; and unimpeded lawful commerce governing the affairs of this region.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK):

Diplomatic relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) were established in December 1973. Relations between India and DPRK are cordial. 2015 saw the visit of Foreign Minister Mr. Ri Su Yong to India from 12-14 April 2015, the first at the Foreign Minister level from DPRK to India. Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong expressed his country's appreciation for the humanitarian assistance provided by India to DPRK and in this regard sought additional assistance.

Japan: India-Japan relations have witnessed a gradual transformation in recent years and reflect a broad convergence of their long-term political, economic and strategic goals. PM Modi's visit to Japan in 2014, which was his first overseas visit outside the neighbourhood, prepared the ground for a qualitative shift in bilateral relations which elevated the bilateral relationship to a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership". India-Japan "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" was further reinforced by PM Abe's visit to India from 11-13 December 2015. The visit resulted in Japan agreeing to provide funding for a slew of key infrastructure projects along with agreements in defence cooperation and civil nuclear energy. The two Sides also signed an agreement to implement high speed railways in India.

Japan and India are committed to leverage the synergy between India's "Act East" policy and Japan's "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" to develop and strengthen reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructures that augment connectivity within India and between India and other countries in the region. Japanese ODA's contribution to the building of social and physical infrastructure in India was acknowledged. The total commitment of Japanese ODA yen loan to India in FY 2015 may reach around 400 billion yen, the highest ever provided to India.

Mongolia: India and Mongolia are democracies, share a common Buddhist legacy and have a history of cultural exchanges spanning centuries. Visit of Prime Minister Modi to Mongolia in May 2015, the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Mongolia, was a significant milestone in our bilateral relations. During this visit, India and Mongolia elevated their bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership and identified a host of new areas of bilateral cooperation including development of equal and mutually beneficial trade, investment and economic cooperation, which is balanced, sustainable, and leads to prosperity in both countries.

Republic of Korea (RoK): The year 2015 marks the sixtieth anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two Countries. Bilateral relations between India and Republic of Korea (ROK) are increasingly becoming multifaceted, spurred by a significant convergence of economic, political and security interests. The year saw adding of new substance, speed and content in the partnership in a wide range of areas including foreign affairs, defense, trade

and investment, science and technology, culture and people-to-people exchanges and regional cooperation to take the bilateral relations to a qualitatively higher level. India views the ROK as vital to its “Act East” policy, and the ROK and India recognize the value of the bilateral partnership and its contribution to bringing peace, stability and security in the Asia Pacific Region.

Eurasia

Relations with Russia remain a central pillar of India’s foreign policy. Enhancing India’s ‘special and privileged strategic partnership’ with Russia was a key focus this year, with as many as three visits at Head of State/Government level from India to Russia. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee participated in the 70th anniversary commemoration of victory in World War II in Moscow on 9 May 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Russia twice - for the 7th BRICS Summit and SCO Summit in Ufa, Russia on 8-10 July and for the 16th India-Russia Annual Summit in Moscow on 23-24 December 2015. India’s engagement with its Central Asian partners gained significant momentum with the historic visit by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to all five Central Asian countries—Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan— in July 2015. Relations with Belarus, Ukraine, and the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) also continue to develop well.

Russian Federation: High-level visits as well as Ministerial and official interactions in diverse formats contributed to a significant strengthening and deepening of India-Russia relations in diverse fields. Over 25 bilateral agreements and MOUs covering cooperation in areas such as defence, civil nuclear cooperation, education, science & technology, hydrocarbons, railways, solar energy, visa simplification, Ayurveda, satellite navigation, heavy engineering and supercomputing were signed during the year. During the 16th Annual Summit, particular focus was given to enhance trade and economic ties as a strong pillar of the strategic partnership. A wide-ranging joint statement ‘*Shared Trust, New Horizons*’ was also issued, which fully reflects the diversity and dynamism in India-Russia relations.

In addition to considerable progress on bilateral relations, India and Russia maintained close consultations on regional and global issues. Russia reaffirmed its strong support for India’s candidature for a permanent seat in a reformed UN

Security Council, multilateral export control regimes as well as other plurilateral frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. India and Russia also continued their close cooperation in the framework of Russia’s chairmanship of BRICS.

The 21st session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) was held in Moscow on 20 October 2015, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin. During the visit, EAM also met her Russian counterpart Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov. The two Foreign Ministers had also met at the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2015 and also held a bilateral meeting in Beijing in February 2015 on the margins of the Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers meeting. Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar held Foreign Office Consultations in Moscow on 19 October 2015.

Defence cooperation continued to be a key driver of the India-Russia partnership. Raksha Mantri Shri Manohar Parrikar visited Moscow and St Petersburg in October-November 2015 and co-chaired with Russian Defence Minister Mr. Sergei Shoigu the 15th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC). Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Rao Indrerejit Singh participated in the 4th Moscow International Security Conference in April 2015. Several visits and exchanges, including joint exercises and high-level visits between the armed forces of both countries, also took place.

Several measures to promote bilateral trade and investment were implemented, including simplification of visa regime for businessmen, signing of protocol on pre-arrival exchange of information (“Green Corridor”), setting up of a Special Notified Zone for trade in rough diamonds and market access for agricultural exports. Significant investments, particularly in the hydrocarbons sector in both countries, were also announced during the year.

Belarus: Bilateral relations with Belarus received a major fillip with the first ever visit by an Indian President in June 2015. Minister of State for Commerce & Industry also visited Belarus in September 2015 for the Inter-Governmental Commission meeting. Foreign Minister of Belarus visited India in May 2015.

Ukraine and South Caucasus: India's relations with Ukraine continued to develop. Ties with Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan were consolidated through active cultural and business exchanges.

Central Asia

The visit of Prime Minister to all the five Central Asian countries, i.e., Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in July 2015 raised the profile of our bilateral relationship with these countries and the region as a whole to an unprecedented high. Visits and interactions at EAM and senior official level further consolidated relations with these countries located in India's extended neighbourhood. India continued its significant contributions to capacity building and human resources development in the region. A total of 22 Agreements in different fields were signed with the five Central Asian countries during Prime Minister's visits.

The International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

The International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) made significant progress during the year. Following up on the dry run study conducted by Federation of Freight Forwarders' Association in India (FFFAI) on the INSTC Route, India hosted an interactive session on INSTC at Mumbai in June 2015, followed by Expert Level and INSTC Council Meetings in Delhi in August 2015 and a conference to popularize the INSTC route in Mumbai in December 2015. Customs officials of India, Russia and Azerbaijan also met in Astrakhan, Russia in November 2015.

Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project

Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari attended the ground-breaking ceremony of the Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project held in Mary, Turkmenistan on 13 December 2015 along with President of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, MOS (Independent Charge) for Petroleum & Natural Gas led the Indian delegation at the 22nd Steering Committee Meeting of TAPI from 06-08 August 2015. At the SCM, Turkmenistan offered to lead the TAPI Consortium

which was agreed to unanimously by all the other three members. The 23rd TAPI SCM was held in Ashgabat on 24 October 2015; Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas represented India. At the SCM, the four parties initialed the Shareholding Agreement for M/s TAPI Ltd.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

The year heralded a new phase in India's relations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). During its Council of Heads of State Meeting in Ufa, Russia in July 2015, the SCO announced its decision to initiate India's membership. Prime Minister addressed the SCO Plenary Session. Gen. Dr. V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, attended the SCO Heads of Government meeting held on 15 December 2015 in Zhengzhou, China. Representatives from India attended various SCO meetings during the year including the health, interior, justice, trade and commerce Ministerial meetings and the meeting of SCO Prosecutors General.

The Gulf, West Asia & North Africa

India enjoys close historical ties with the countries of the Gulf Region, which are cemented in age old civilizational links and strong people to people contact. This friendly relationship was further strengthened this year by regular exchange of high-level visits. The Gulf region is India's largest trading partner region with bilateral trade over US\$ 150 billion in 2014-15. The region also continues to be a major supplier of crude oil and LNG to India and accounts for over half of India's crude oil imports and over 85 percent of India's natural gas imports, remaining vital to India's energy security needs. Among India's top six oil sourcing countries, four are from the Gulf Region - Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and the UAE. The Gulf countries also host a seven-million strong Indian expatriate community which contributes to the development of the host countries and forms an organic link between India and the Gulf states.

India sees Islamic Republic of Iran as an important country in India's immediate 'economic and security space'. Interactions between the leadership and senior ministers of the two countries provided thrust to the bilateral relations in 2015, including in economic sphere. India had welcomed the signing of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

between Iran and P5+1 in July 2015. The announcement of the Implementation Day in January 2016, as agreed in the JCPOA, is a victory for patient diplomacy and dialogue. This will open a new chapter of peace and prosperity for friendly people of Islamic Republic of Iran and the region.

Africa

This period marked a very special and a historic year in India-Africa partnership that saw unprecedented interaction at the leadership level. India hosted the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015 with all 54 African countries, with whom India has diplomatic relations, participating in the Summit and a record 41 African countries participating at the level of Heads of State/Government. In the leadup to the Summit, 16 Ministers of State visited 49 African countries as Special Envoys of Prime Minister to personally extend invitations for the Summit.

In addition, there were three incoming State visits by the Presidents of Tanzania, Mozambique and Seychelles and an Official visit by the President of Mauritius during this period. These closely followed the landmark visits by Prime Minister to Mauritius and Seychelles in March 2015.

The year 2015 that also marked the 70th anniversary year of the establishment of the United Nations saw two important world conferences take place in Africa – the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa July 2015) and the WTO Ministerial Conference (Nairobi December 2015). India cooperated closely with the African partners on issues of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and on finalization of the post 2020 Agreement on Climate Change that was finalized at the COP 21 of the UNFCCC in Paris in December 2015. The year also saw the adoption of the Agenda 2063 by the African Union in June 2015.

The India Africa engagement intensified the focus on the strengthening of the business linkages of trade and investment and the political interaction that is based on the unique south-south cooperation comprising the multifaceted development partnership that includes education & capacity building, cooperation in agriculture, energy, technology, infrastructure, healthcare among others. The partnership also focused on emerging issues of cooperation in the areas of blue economy, counter-terrorism and maritime security.

Longstanding Diaspora linkages form an important aspect of India Africa ties.

There were a number of exchanges of other high level visits and interactions during this period. Also during this period, the 4th meeting of India Africa Trade Ministers was held in New Delhi on 23 October 2015. 37 delegations comprising of Trade Ministers/officials and 8 Regional Economic Communities participated in the Meeting. The 4th India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in New Delhi on 21-22 January 2016. 25 African countries were invited to participate in the event.

The West African region is home to Africa's largest population and fastest growing economies with largest proven reserves of energy resources. Over the past 10 years, many of the economies within the region are outpacing economies anywhere else in the world, and this booming economic growth has helped create the fastest-growing middle class in the world

A growing population and abundance of natural resources ensure that West Africa offers tremendous investment and economic opportunities for states and businesses alike. Prior to 2000, the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for this region was estimated to be less than \$250 billion. Yet within the space of a decade GDP had more than doubled to approximately \$565 billion. Of fundamental importance to economic growth have been a host of economic and political reforms that have stimulated new business opportunities across West Africa. Indeed, the growth in GDP has been mirrored by a substantial rise in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Since the mid-1990s, West Africa has seen the historic shift from military regimes to constitutional rule, cessation of civil wars in several countries, and renewed regional economic integration.

The West Africa region continues to gain strategic importance for India. India's bilateral trade with the region has been following a rising trend and currently stands at around US\$ 31 billion, having increased 15 times since 2003. India sources about 18% of its crude oil requirements from this region. Capacity building, skills development and strengthening of physical and social infrastructure have remained at the centre of India's expanding development partnership with the region. India has continued to lend its active support to international efforts aimed at restoration of constitutional order, peace, security and stability in the

region. Indian troops are involved in several peace keeping operations in countries in West Africa. The Third India Africa Forum Summit provided an opportunity for renewed high level contacts with leaders of West Africa.

Europe

West Europe

Outreach to Western Europe remained a key focus, with six Prime Minister level visits held during April- November 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid visits to four countries including Germany, France, Ireland and U.K. and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands and the Chancellor of Germany visited India during this period. These visits have been instrumental in establishing robust roadmaps for enhanced partnerships with these important countries in priority areas of mutual interest.

Central Europe

India continued to share close and cordial relations with the countries in Central Europe. The bilateral relations strengthened during the year through a constant exchange of visits, business interactions and cultural exchanges. A special focus during the year was on holding seminars and other such fora to disseminate information about government of India's policies and flagship projects particularly Make in India, Digital India, Clean Ganga, Skill India etc. 2nd Edition of India-Central Europe Business Forum was held in Begaluru on 4-5 October 2015 wherein official and business representatives from 18 countries from Central Europe participated. Poland was the partner country in the forum this year. The first ever International Day of Yoga was also marked by a number of simultaneous yoga classes, lectures and demonstrations in a number of cities throughout the region. India and countries in Central Europe continued to extend support to each other in various international for a including for the candidates of the two countries for offices in international organizations.

The Americas

Canada: India-Canada bilateral relations have seen a transformation in recent years which is underpinned by shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement, regular high-level interactions and long standing people-to- people ties. The relationship witnessed a

new momentum with the visit of Prime Minister to Canada in April 2015, and the elevation of bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership. India will continue to engage with the newly elected government in Canada headed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Canada is home to over 1.2 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) who comprise more than 3% of the country's population. In order to expand people-to-people ties, during his visit to Canada, Prime Minister announced the Electronic Travel Authorization for Canadian nationals. Long term visa of 10 years for the Canadian nationals was also announced.

Energy has been a primary area of our focus, considering that Canada is an 'energy superpower' with one of the world's largest resources of uranium, natural gas, oil, coal, minerals and advanced technologies in hydropower, mining, renewable energy and nuclear energy. In the hydrocarbon sector, Indian Oil has acquired 10% participating interest in Pacific North West (PNW), LNG Project, British Columbia. During the visit of Prime Minister to Canada, Department of Atomic Energy and M/S CAMECO Inc., Canada signed an agreement for supply of 3000 metric tonnes of uranium ore concentrate to India in 2015-2020. The first shipment of uranium arrived in India in December 2015. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 4.48 billion in 2014. In addition, in the recent past, Canadian pension funds have invested more than \$ 6 billion in India. Indian FDI in 2014 was US\$ 2781.1 million as against Canadian FDI of US\$ 789.6 million in India. To spur bilateral trade and economic ties both sides are actively negotiating CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) and BIPPA (Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement).

United States: India-US relations have developed into extensive bilateral strategic and global partnership, based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues. This year also, Summit interactions and regular exchange of high level visits provided sustained momentum to bilateral cooperation, through wide-ranging and ever-expanding dialogue architecture with a long-term framework for engagement. Prime Minister's second visit to the United States in September 2015 was aimed at harnessing the US capital and technology and in strengthening existing investment and technology partnerships with the US industry across a range of diversified areas, especially renewable

energy; digital economy, innovation and manufacturing. The linkage of interests of key stakeholders in the US with India's developmental objectives was also emphasised. The visit also provided opportunity to connect with the vibrant and expanding Indian Diaspora in the US.

During the year, there were major exchanges at political and functional levels in various sectors, including in trade and economy, health, energy, science and technology, homeland security, counterterrorism, climate change and others, which culminated in the first Strategic and Commercial Dialogue in September 2015. This year also saw renewed interest on both sides to strengthen bilateral economic engagement. There was robust defence engagement with greater focus on co-development and co-production under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative. Reciprocal visits at the Defence Ministers level this year put the cooperation on a firm footing with the signing of 10 year 'Framework for the India-US Defence Relationship'.

India-US trade and commercial engagement continued to expand in 2015 with healthy growth in trade (in goods and services), investment and technology partnerships. The US remained India's largest trading partner in goods and services combined. The US was the 6th largest investor in India in 2014-15.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries

India attaches importance to its relations with the LAC region and has warm and friendly relations with all the countries of the region. With the Caribbean countries, India shares historical, cultural and civilizational ties. India and the countries in LAC region share common membership of many international organizations and work closely together in the UN, G-77, NAM etc.

India's relations with LAC region intensified tremendously in 2015 and strengthened further in various spheres. Almost all countries of the region have been included for issuance of e-Tourist Visa. The International Yoga Day 2015 was celebrated at a large scale in all the countries of the region with local political support and participation at highest political levels and from the general public, thus showing their integration in the initiative taken by India.

To enhance trade, identify new areas and strengthen the existing ones, the 7th India-LAC Conclave was organized by

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with support from MEA and Department of Commerce which had high level participation from the region.

There has been exchange of high level visits and meetings in 2015 which provided a mandate and roadmap for taking forward this relation. PM held meetings with the President of Mexico, Guyana and St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York. Joint Commission Meetings have been held by EAM with Brazilian and Suriname Foreign Ministers in New Delhi. The Brazilian Foreign Minister met NSA & Finance Minister during his visit. The Foreign Minister of Uruguay visited India for bilateral talks with EAM. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh(Retd.) visited the region extensively covering Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and El Salvador in 2015. Foreign Office Consultations held with Honduras, Barbados and Paraguay. Secretary level talks were also held with Brazil and Argentina. The second Vice President of Costa Rica attended the 6th India-LAC Conclave in October 2015.

There has been substantive development on India's engagement with the regional groupings of the region. The third India-SICA Ministerial Meeting was held in Guatemala in May 2015 which was attended by MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) and the 1st India-CARICOM Joint Commission Meeting was held in Guyana in June 2015 followed by a Ministerial Meeting in New York in September 2015 which was attended by EAM. EAM also met the CELAC Quartet in New York. Our ongoing engagement with CELAC will help us strengthen our dialogue process with this important group.

Trade and investment of course has been the main driver of our relationship. From US\$ 2 billion in 2000, trade has grown to over US\$ 46 billion in recent years. LAC region is the second largest supplier of crude oil for India (19 % of all our crude comes from the region).

United Nations and International Organisations & Legal and Treaties Division

United Nations: India continued its high level of engagements with the United Nations and UN organizations

during 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited UNESCO Headquarters in April 2015 to mark 70th anniversary of the Organization. The Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi also led the high level segment of the Indian delegation to the 70th Session of UNGA. Hon'ble Prime Minister also participated in the high level segment of the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties (COP21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Minister of Environment, Climate and Forest Shri Prakash Javedkar led the Indian delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference where the historic Paris Agreement was adopted. Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development Smt. Smriti Irani participated at the World Education Forum held in Incheon. Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha led the Indian delegation to the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development held at Addis Ababa. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (I/C) for Commerce and Industry led the delegation at 71st Annual Commission Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific UNSCAP in Bangkok. Hon'ble speaker Lok Sabha Smt Sumitra Mahajan led a joint delegation of Parliament to 133rd IPU session in Geneva in October 2015.

Legal and Treaties Division

During the relevant period of the report, Legal and Treaties Division undertook and followed the work related to international law in various fields including those relating to Sixth Committee of the United Nations, terrorism, Rule of Law at the National and International Level; Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on Mission; Universal Jurisdiction, Special Committee on the UN Charter; Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction and the topics under consideration of International Law Commission.

The Division participated in the International Law Week in New York, in which, besides meeting of legal advisors of UN member States, events, discussions organised by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization's (AALCO) were also attended.

Law of the sea has been one of the priority areas of the Division and it has provided its views on various legal aspects in the areas including seabed area, maritime delimitation, sustainable development of marine environment, issues relating to continental shelf.

The Division participated in the meetings of the working group of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Hague Conference on Private International Law (HcCH), Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). Besides this, there were many bilateral/multilateral negotiations concerning free trade agreements, investment protection agreements, social security agreements, extradition, mutual legal assistance matters etc., in which this Division had participated.

There are two ongoing international disputes involving India before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). They are, MV *Enrica Lexie* case (Italy vs. India before ITLOS); and the Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands vs. India before the ICJ). The Division is actively involved in the handling of the cases.

The Division is playing a crucial role in respect of vetting of bilateral and multilateral agreements/treaties/Memorandum of Understandings before their conclusion. Hundreds of such instruments were examined by the Division during the year 2015. Besides being the repository of the treaties/agreements entered into by India, this Division has been endeavouring to make available the soft copies of those agreements/treaties online.

During the year 2015, the Division processed 54 Instrument of Ratifications and 11 instruments of Full Powers as well, which is part of international treaty practice.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): India, because of its geography, economy, international stature and commitment to the region, is central to SAARC. Its contribution to SAARC is also seminal. India has cumulatively contributed over US\$ 530 million to SAARC institutions for socio-economic development. Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi had made a number of unilateral offers from India at the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu (November 2014), such as long term business visas up to 3-5 years are being issued to businessmen from SAARC countries, health officials/experts from Afghanistan participated in India's Sub-National Polio Immunisation Day (SNID), South Asian University has established partnership with at least one university in each SAARC country, medical visas for patients and accompanying attendants

are being issued by our Missions in SAARC countries on priority basis, and the SAARC Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation (Electricity) was signed. Apart from the above, India organised the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx) from 23-26 November 2015 New Delhi to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss disaster response plans and capabilities of SAARC countries. India's proactive stance in SAARC since 2004 as part of its new approach to the countries in the neighborhood has been a transformative factor in ensuring the gradual and irreversible transition of the organisation from its declaratory to implementation mode. India's commitment to shoulder more than its assessed responsibilities, in an asymmetric and non-reciprocal manner, has resonated well within the region.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

During the period April- December 2015, India focussed on themes of common importance to all Member States of BIMSTEC, namely Transportation & Communication, Trade and Investment, Technology, Energy, Agriculture, Public Health, Counter- Terrorism and Transnational Crime and Climate Change. In the year under review, the Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-group on Combating the Financing of the Terrorism (SG-CFT) was held during 27-28 May 2015 in Thimphu, Bhutan. A BIMSTEC Network of National Centres of Coordination in Traditional Medicine has been established. The 3rd BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of BIMSTEC- Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) was held in Colombo during 25-26 August 2015. The 20th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) was held in Khon Khaen, Thailand from 7-9 September 2015. Progress has also been achieved in finalising the text of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and the same is ready for signature in the next BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. The 6th Meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-group on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues was held on 17-18 December 2015 in New Delhi wherein deliberation took place regarding the draft text of the BIMSTEC Convention on Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Further deliberation shall take place in the next Sub-group Meeting scheduled to be held sometime in 2016.

Disarmament and International Security Affairs: In 2015-16, India continued to play an active role at various multilateral fora on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal

and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, leading towards general and complete disarmament. India's position on these issues was guided by its national security interests and its tradition of close engagement with the international community in promoting cooperative efforts to deal with various traditional and non traditional security challenges. India was actively at work at the meetings of the UN First Committee in New York, UN Disarmament Commission, Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC) in Geneva, Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in The Hague, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva, UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW) in New York.

Multilateral Economic Relations

BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, led the Indian delegation to the 7th BRICS Summit on 8-9 July 2015 in Ufa, Russia. The theme of the Summit was "BRICS Partnership - a Powerful Factor of Global Development." The Leaders discussed a wide range of issues including UN Reforms, IMF Reforms, WTO, G20, regional and global political developments, terrorism, New Development Bank (NDB), BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), cooperation in ICTs and other issues relating to intra-BRICS Cooperation. The Leaders adopted the Ufa Declaration and Action Plan at the Summit. Key outcomes of the 7th BRICS Summit include an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, an MoU on the Creation of a Joint BRICS Website and an MoU under the BRICS Inter-Bank Mechanism on Cooperation with the NDB. The BRICS Strategy for Economic Partnership which was also adopted by the Leaders at the Summit includes cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, finance, manufacturing, energy, agriculture, science & technology, connectivity, ICT, etc.

IBSA Dialogue Forum: The Focal Points (Senior Officials) of IBSA [India, Brazil and South Africa] Dialogue Forum met in New York on 25 September 2015. This was their 25th meeting since inception of IBSA in June 2003. They reaffirmed continued relevance of IBSA in the light of growing importance of South-South cooperation. Brazil and South Africa welcomed new initiatives for IBSA cooperation proposed by India in the fields of micro financing, satellites-based applications, smart cities and joint Antarctica expedition.

The 10th G20 Summit: Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 10th G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey on 15-16 November 2015. The agenda of the Summit included terrorism, refugee crisis, climate change, the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference, global economy, growth and employment and investment strategies, enhancing resilience, financial regulation, international tax, anti-corruption, IMF reforms and energy. The G20 Leaders issued a Communiqué and a standalone statement on Fight Against Terrorism at the Summit.

Development Cooperation

Development Cooperation is an important constituent of India's foreign policy. India's external development assistance programmes in developing countries have increased significantly in their scope and coverage in the past few years. These include Lines of Credit, grant assistance, technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a wide range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses.

The Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was set up in the Ministry of External Affairs in January 2012 for efficient execution and monitoring of India's development projects through the stages of conceptualization, launch, implementation and commissioning.

Various development projects in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, education, health, Industry and other sectors, as prioritized by the host governments, are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and other countries. In addition, a number of projects have been initiated for development and strengthening of cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours and are in various stages of implementation. In South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America, bilateral projects in Information and Computer Technology (ICT), Small & Medium enterprises and archaeological conservation have been undertaken.

The Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) was held in New Delhi from 26-30 October 2015 to give a new thrust to the age-old partnership between India and Africa. Heads of State/Heads of Government of 54 African Nations participated in the Summit. The vision document entitled

'Delhi Declaration 2015' and India-Africa framework for Strategic Cooperation outlined a multi-faceted strategy for dovetailing the India growth story with Africa's Agenda 2063 to spur mutual resurgence. The Summit placed development cooperation at the heart of India-Africa partnership, unveiling \$10 billion in Lines of Credit for a host of development projects over the next five years and a grant assistance of \$600 million. DPA played an active role during the Summit as bilateral discussions were conducted in the sidelines on various projects being undertaken in Africa with Indian assistance.

Extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms to other developing countries has been an important instrument of India's external development assistance. Over the years, 226 LoCs aggregating US\$ 16,898.23 million have been allocated to different countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 8,705.21 million have been allocated for African countries and US\$ 8,193.02 million for non-African countries.

During 2015-16, over 8360 civilian training slots were offered to 161 partner countries in a wide range of disciplines under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC)/ Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP). Over 2000 defence training slots were also offered to partner countries in various defence institutions in India. Separately, 500 civilian training slots were offered under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and Pacific. In addition, special courses in a variety of disciplines were also conducted based on requests from partner countries. In order to give thrust for continued engagement with ITEC Alumni as well as in line with the Digital India initiative, ITEC portal has now been made available.

Humanitarian assistance was provided to Syria, Philippines, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and Nepal in 2015-16.

Investment and Technology Promotion

2015-16 has been an exciting year for India's economic diplomacy. MEA's economic engagement worldwide through its Missions / Posts is creating opportunities for the country's investors, entrepreneurs, workers and consumers, while also serving the nation's economic objectives. The Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division, the

economic arm of the MEA, provided assistance to Indian Missions / Posts for enhancing their economic outreach; helped resolve trade and investment disputes; facilitated foreign enterprises in identifying business opportunities in India; extended financial assistance to Business Chambers and Think Tanks for organizing seminars and conferences to promote GOI flagship schemes and regional economic cooperation initiatives; supported investment activities of several State governments; commissioned reports and surveys by engaging leading consultancy firms; and worked in close cooperation with other line ministries in the civil aviation, railways, shipping and road transport, energy resources, urban development, agriculture, health, water and sanitation, finance, trade, tourism, culture and information space.

Energy Security

Energy Security Division serves as the nodal point for energy related matters in the Ministry of External Affairs. Given the high dependence on important energy resources, sustained diplomatic interventions on energy issues and close coordination with the line Ministries/Departments is imperative. Energy Security Division continued its close interaction with the line Ministries and also contributed to deliberations of International Organizations on Energy and Food Security related issues.

The Division participated in the Hannover Messe Fair 2015 held during 14-16 April 2015, 2nd UN Sustainable Energy for All Forum held in New York during 19-20 May 2015, 11th Policy Committee (PoCo) meeting of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) held in Merida, Mexico during 24-26 May 2015, 13th Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency (IPEEC) held in Paris during 16-18 September 2015, Meetings of G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group under Turkish presidency held in Turkey during 2015, 6th Clean Energy Ministerial meeting held during 26-28 May 2015 in Merida, Mexico, 6th OPEC International Seminar held in Vienna, Austria during 3-4 June 2015, the 9th & 10th meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) held in Abu-Dhabi, UAE during 10-11 June 2015 and 23-24 November 2015 respectively, 4th International LNG Producer-Consumer Conference held in Tokyo on 16 September 2015, G20 Energy Ministers Meeting and Conference on Energy Access

in Sub Saharan Africa held in Istanbul, Turkey during 1-2 October 2015, IEA Ministerial Meeting held in Paris during 17-18 November 2015.

Hon'ble Minister of State, Petroleum & Natural Gas visited Maputo, Mozambique during 09-10 April 2015 for discussion on further cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons and coal. An Indian delegation visited Tehran, Iran during 18-19 April 2015 and on 28 July 2015 for bilateral discussions with Iran on various issues related to trade and investment in oil and gas sector.

The proposed TAPI pipeline project made considerable progress during this year with announcements of the respective percentage of shares in TAPI Ltd. by the Parties and signing of the Shareholders Agreement for the Project. The ground breaking ceremony for the pipeline was held in Mary, Turkmenistan on 13 December 2015.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) meeting was launched in Paris on 30 November 2015 on the sidelines of COP 21, by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble President of France, François Hollande. The first meeting of International Steering Committee of ISA was organised on 1 December 2015 in Paris. Its 2nd meeting was held at Abu Dhabi, UAE on 18 January 2016.

States Division

The role of the States Division, since its creation in October 2014, has been highly appreciated by the States and other countries. The States Division strives to play its role as the fulcrum for coordination between the States, the Missions and the Ministry of External Affairs, facilitating not only the external linkages of the states but also strengthening the concept of cooperative federalism in the process. The States Division is in the process of evolving new institutional structures and deepening the partnership with the states, thus contributing to the implementation of the concept of 'Diplomacy for Development'.

Counter-terrorism

During the year, India continued to hold structured consultations through Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) with various partner countries. India voiced strong concerns regarding the scourge of terrorism at the BRICS and G-20 Summits held in November 2015. It also emphasized the importance of a united response to

address this problem under the umbrella of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) proposed by it in the UN in 1996.

Global Cyber Issues

Global Cyber Issues Division of MEA handles all matters relating to global cyber issues. Keeping in view the vision for achieving 'Digital India' and increasing involvement of India in important global platform on cyber issues, it actively pursued efforts for a leadership role for India in global cyber issues during the period 2015-16.

Boundary Cell

Boundary Cell is the repository of all maps/documents/information pertaining to India's International Borders. It provides cartographic advice and technical support on border related matters to the concerned Territorial Divisions of the Ministry. During the period 2015-16, it participated in various International/Inter-Ministerial meetings on International Land & Maritime Boundary of India with Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar.

Policy Planning & Research Division

The year 2014-15 saw a significant revamping of the Policy Planning and Research Division in Ministry of External Affairs. The Division was strengthened through increased allocation of human and financial resources to deliver on a reinforced mandate that includes providing research based perspective on ongoing issues/policies to the Ministry, proactive outreach to Indian think tanks, organizing conferences in partnership with major think tanks in order to develop significant discussion platforms on contemporary foreign policy issues in India and instituting dialogues on policy planning with our important diplomatic partners.

Consular, Passport & Visa Services

The issuance of Passports and Travel Documents is the most visible citizen-centric service rendered by the Ministry of External Affairs. The year 2015 saw many quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services across the country. The Passport Seva, one of the largest Mission Mode Projects under the National e-Governance Plan, completed three and half years of its successful operation. Seen in this context, achieving triple International Organisation of Standardisation (ISO) certifications by

Passport Seva (ISO 9001: 2008; ISO 20000-1:2011; and ISO 27001:2013) in May 2015 was indeed a milestone. An ISO certification is considered the hallmark of quality management and service standards.

In addition to the 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) running in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, the Ministry set up 8 additional Passport Seva Kendras in Agartala, Aizawl, Gangtok, Imphal, Kalaburagi, Karimnagar, Darbhanga and Shillong, thus, providing extended reach to passport applicants, particularly in the North East. 10 more Passport Seva Kendras are being set up for the convenience of citizens which will take the no. of PSKs to 95 during the year 2016.

During the year 2015, 1.20 crore Passport and related services were rendered by the Ministry. Out of this, approximately 13.85 lakh Passport and related services were delivered by 183 Missions and Posts abroad. There is an increase of 21% over 2014, in the number of services rendered. In terms of volume of applications, top 5 States were: Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat (accounting for more than 51% of total applications. Similarly top 5 countries outside India in terms of Indian passport applications were: UAE, Saudi Arabia, US, Kuwait and Qatar. As on 31 December 2015, approximately 6.33 crore Indians held valid Passports. The total revenue expected to be generated from all passport services in Financial Year 2015-16 is around Rs. 2300 crore. An amount of Rs. 902.70 crore was allocated to Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2015-16.

Some of the important steps to make the passport issuance system simpler, speedier and secure include strengthening of the public grievance redressal system, setting up of a National Call Centre operating in 17 languages, updating of Passport Portal on regular basis, mPassport Seva mobile app to provide passport related information, online integration with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) database for e-authentication of Aadhaar, integration of eMigrate system with PSP system, organizing of Passport Seva Camps, Passport Melas, Adalats, online filing of passport related services applications through the vast network of over one lakh Common Service Centres, high priority to Haj applicants, timely disposal of appeals and Right to Information (RTI) cases, improvement in physical infrastructure in Passport Offices and introduction of new security features in passport booklets.

As on 31 December 2015, the number of appointment slots released per day was more than 60,000. The appointment for visiting a PSK is now available within 1-7 days at all Passport Offices across the country. Now, on a pan India basis, 68% of normal passports were issued within a month which includes police verification. If Police Verification (PV) period is excluded, then 38% of Normal passports were issued within 3 days, 74% within 7 days, 91% within 14 days and 94% within 21 days. In case of Tatkaal applications, 34% passports were issued on the day of submission, 65% are issued within a day and 87% are issued within 3 days. 397 Passport Melas were organized by Passport Offices during the closed weekends/holidays. More than 2.56 lakh passport applications were serviced during extended working hours. More than 51,000 applications were processed at 124 Passport Seva Camps. The Ministry collaborated with Citizen e-Governance Services to enable applicants to avail the services of Common Services Centres for online application filing at a nominal charge. More than 1.2 lakh applicants used these services during the year.

Police Verification (PV) plays an important role in the timely dispatch of passports. 683 of the 731 Police Districts are functioning on the District Police Headquarters (DPHQ) model of Police Verification taking care of 98.29% of PV volume. The all-India average for the number of days taken to complete the police verification came down to 34 (was 42 in 2014 and 49 in 2013). About 61% of PVs got completed within the desired time limit of 21 days, showing an improvement of 15 days and about 24% since last year. Telangana is the best performing State completing police verification in 8 days followed by Andhra Pradesh (12 days), Chandigarh (12 days), Goa (12 days) and Delhi (14 Days).

The procedures for issuance of passport were further simplified and liberalized by:

- Acceptance of Birth Certificate in respect of abandoned/orphaned children liberalized for providing passport services
- Liberalization of the requirement of No Objection Certificate (NOC) by Govt. officials for passport applications
- Acceptance of registered rent agreement as proof of address
- Acceptance of self-attested documents
- Doing away with ink signatures of Passport Issuing Authorities to optimize use of manpower
- Acceptance of Photo passbooks issued by Scheduled Indian banks and Regional Rural banks in addition to the ones issued by Scheduled Public Sector banks, as proof of address and identity.

A three day Passport Officers' Conference was held during the period 24-26 June 2015. Passport Seva Divas was observed on 24 June 2015. Passport Seva Puruskars to 27 officials for exhibiting high degree of devotion towards duty and delivering excellent services to the nation were given away on the occasion. A "mPassport Police" mobile application prototype for Police Verification was also unveiled.

The project for "creation of image retrievable database" through digitisation of the passport, visa, OCI and PIO applications in Indian Missions/Posts was undertaken in select Missions/Posts. As on 31 December 2015, nearly 21 crore pages have been digitized.

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued a total of 4.79 million visas in 2015. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified, which includes computerization of the visa issuance system and outsourcing of visa services, which commenced in 2006. Presently, the visa work has been outsourced in 67 Missions/Posts abroad. As on 31 December 2015, Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) scheme has been introduced in 163 Indian Missions/Posts abroad, out of which 77 Missions/Posts have implemented biometric enrolment procedures.

For the period from January to December 2015, Attestation Cell in the Consular, Passport & Visa (CPV) Division attested 3,53,646 General and 1,74,878 Commercial documents and apostilled 4,36,601 documents for use in the Apostille member countries. In addition, 34,724 documents were attested/ apostilled at four MEA Branch Secretariats at Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati during this period. The attestation of some types of consular documents is also done by Indian Missions/Posts for Indian citizens living abroad.

In the year 2015, visa waiver agreements were signed with Albania, Cuba, Guatemala, Morocco, Mozambique, Poland, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Tunisia and Bilateral Consular Dialogues were held with Australia, Brazil, China, Czech

Republic, Iran, South Africa, Russia, Turkmenistan and USA.

As part of Good Governance initiatives, the CPV Division launched the MADAD - Public Grievances Management System to redress consular grievances and is finalizing a Nationality Verification Portal to address problems related to illegal migrants, in addition to several other modules.

Administration, Establishment & Projects

In the year 2015-16, Administration Division continued its efforts to streamline rules, regulations and procedures and devise measures for optimum resource management. In order to build a competent and motivated workforce to carry out diverse functional needs both at Headquarters and abroad, it has taken several new initiatives such as MEA e-SamikSha and Biometric Attendance System and deployment of information technology tools for better cadre management.

In a recent survey conducted by CPWD in July 2015, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan was rated as the best office building and topped the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) ratings among the 49 government buildings in the capital that were screened for overall cleanliness. In pursuance of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aimed at highlighting the need for officials to pay due attention to cleanliness as well as to be personally involved in fostering clean surroundings, several steps were undertaken in the Ministry as well as in our Missions and Posts abroad during the last one year.

The highlight of the period with regard to projects was the successful completion and inauguration of Torana Gate at Kuala Lumpur jointly by the Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Malaysia on 23 November 2015.

Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

During the year 2015, the Ministry continued to make efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005. In keeping with instructions of Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) on suo-motu disclosure, uploading of RTI applications/appeals/responses & monthly RTI figures on public domain has been implemented. The system of online acceptance & disposal of RTI applications has been implemented in all 183 Missions/Posts abroad by

aligning them with the RTI web portal with effect from 17 August 2015.

E-Governance and Information Technology

Four Mission Mode Projects of e-Kranti (4th pillar of Digital India Programme) namely e-Office, e-Procurement, IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration, Tracking) and Passport Seva Projects (PSP), are presently operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. The e-Governance application, MEA e-Samiksha, a real-time online system for monitoring the follow up action on the decisions taken by the Ministry at various levels, has been implemented at Headquarters and all Indian Missions/Posts abroad since March 2015. The online e-political clearance portal (<http://epolclearance.gov.in>) launched by Foreign Secretary went live from 1 January 2016.

Parliament and Coordination Division

The Parliament Division is Ministry's interface with the Parliament and nodal point for all Parliament related work of this Ministry. The Division organized meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs and coordinated the work relating to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and Ministry's interaction with other Parliamentary Committees.

The Coordination Division coordinated the interaction between the Ministry and other Government of India Ministries, State Governments/Union Territories, and also autonomous bodies and private institutions, including NGOs. The Division handled political clearances for official/private visits abroad of Ministers, elected representatives and Government officials. It also processed clearances for organising Conferences/Seminars/Workshops in India involving foreign participation, sports tournaments in India in which foreign participants were invited and sports tournaments abroad in which Indian participants were invited, landing/overflying clearances of foreign military flights and visit of foreign naval ships etc. In all nearly 2912 clearances were issued during the period April 2015- 30 November 2015.

The Education Division of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination, and admission of foreign students from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries

for Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), Bachelor of Engineering (BE), B.Pharmacy, and diploma courses in various institutions in India under the Self-Financing Foreign Students Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division

The External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division (XPD) continued to effectively articulate India's position on issues of foreign policy and international affairs through facilitation of press coverage of VVIP visits, regular and special briefings for the media, timely issue of press statements and communiqués and familiarisation visits for Indian and foreign journalists. The Division has ramped up its public diplomacy initiatives especially through various social media platform, as well as through the commissioning of films and books on unique aspects of the 'India Story'. Today, the aggregate following of the Ministry alone, excluding Missions and Posts abroad, is approximately 3.8 million. As a result of this, the average monthly reach of its posts on Twitter crosses 17.5 million, while on Facebook, the monthly reach goes above 15 million. Around 149 Indian Missions around the world (95%) have a Facebook presence. More than 90 Missions and Posts are also active on Twitter.

Foreign Service Institute

The year reported upon saw the continuation of the implementation of the new Training Framework of the Ministry of External Affairs adopted in July 2013. Flowing from the recommendations of the National Training Policy of 2012, the Training Framework aims to make training directly relevant to functional requirements by developing competencies and skills for effective discharge of duties and functions. The ultimate objective is to improve service delivery. Training at different stages of a person's career is to be made mandatory.

With the above mandate, the Foreign Service Institute reviewed and revised both the content and methodology of training programmes for Officer Trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and introduced new levels of mid-career training for MEA officers. Training for Group B of IFS was also revamped and intensified by introducing new elements

in the training as also by including categories hitherto not covered, such as Private Secretaries/PPSs/SPPSs, MTS/Chauffeurs, locally recruited staff in Missions abroad etc. Orientation training was also imparted to Deputationists in the Ministry for the first time.

Training capsules incorporated in their content recent directives from the Government including on State Specialization, Make In India campaign, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, simplification of forms and procedures etc. Further, the training content was made accessible to officers/officials posted in Missions/Posts abroad through the online platform of Webinar. Remote participants could not only hear and see computer presentations but also contribute to the discussions by speaking into their microphones and exhibiting their presentations on their webcams. Another innovation in training method was the rendering of training content in very flexible two-day per week capsules to ensure minimum disruption in the regular duties of officers. The introduction of Session Coordination by trainees, wherein an officer or group of officers prepared detailed papers on a particular Session, ensured maximum participation and involvement by the trainees. FSI on the whole adopted a participant-centric approach, consulting the target group of trainees and seeking their inputs / feedback to make the training more relevant to their functional requirements.

Nalanda University

The Nalanda University made good progress during the year in its journey as an institution of academic excellence with an international footprint. Teaching in the School of Historical Studies and School of Ecology and Environment studies started in September 2014 from leased premises in Rajgir, Bihar and the total number of students reached 62 during the academic year 2015-16. So far, a total number of 17 East Asia Summit (EAS) and non-EAS countries have signed the MoU on the establishment of Nalanda University. The process of notification of Nalanda University laws/regulations was carried forward with the notification of University's first ordinance on 10 June 2015.

Implementation of the Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

Ministry has a well organised programme for propagation and promotion of Hindi abroad with the involvement of

our Missions/Posts. Ministry also extends support to various Foreign Universities and to the Educational Institutions through Indian Missions abroad for Hindi related activities. 10th World Hindi Conference was organised by the Ministry on 10-12 September 2015 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. During the Conference, which was attended by a large number of delegates including foreign delegates, extensive discussions were held on twelve themes focusing on the main theme "Hindi Jagat: Vistar evam Sambhavnae". To promote Hindi as an international language, the World Hindi Secretariat has been set-up in Mauritius under a bilateral agreement between India and Mauritius. The Ministry coordinates works relating to grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. Implementation of official language policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

In 2015, ICCR undertook a wide range of activities to promote better understanding of India abroad. As part of its academic and intellectual activities, ICCR had offered 3339 scholarship slots for studying in India under its various scholarship schemes. As welfare measures ICCR organized 12 summer camps during May- June 2015 and celebrated International Student Festival in November 2015 in Regional Offices as well as some of the Missions abroad.

ICCR had 70 operational Chairs covering languages and other aspects of Indian Studies in Universities abroad. In addition, ICCR also operates two chairs in India i.e. South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) chair and Nelson Mandela Chair.

ICCR organized 06 conference/ seminars including "International Conference of Indologists 2015" which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Council sent busts/ statues of National leaders to various countries.

ICCR's 35 full-fledged Cultural Centres and one sub-Centre abroad actively promoted India's soft power abroad through

a wide range of activities, including dance, music, yoga, Hindi, talks and exhibitions.

On the occasion of 1st International Yoga Day on 21 June 2015, Council deputed 30 India based Yoga teachers to various countries to impart knowledge of Yoga and also published a special issue of its Hindi journal "Gagnanchal".

ICCR sponsored 87 Indian cultural groups/artistes abroad which performed in about 80 countries. "Namaste Russia", a festival of India, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India along with his Russian counterpart on 10 May 2015 in Moscow.

It also organized performances by 28 foreign groups in India, including at ICCR's various prestigious Festivals.

It sent 11 exhibitions out of which 10 were from its own collection for display in various countries and organized the second India-China Women Artists' Residency called 'Maitri-II' in Shanghai, China.

ICCR invited distinguished dignitaries and academicians from various countries to visit India for exchange of views. It also supported research of India by some foreign experts.

On the occasion of the 10th World Hindi Conference organised in September 2015 in Bhopal, a special issue of "Gagananchal" and a souvenir entitled "Kavya-Rasdhara" were published.

A book on Father Camille Bulcke (Belgian National), Hindi Scholar was published entitled "Father Camille Bulcke: Bharatiyata ke Prakash Punj".

ICCR brought out journals in Hindi, English, Arabic, French & Spanish for distribution in various countries.

Indian Council of World Affairs

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) continued to accord high priority to research and study of political and economic development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America, and wider global geo-strategic environments were analyzed. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, which were placed on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA started translating its academic outputs in Hindi and have posted it on its website. ICWA has also opened its library for general public and membership rules have been eased. ICWA also conducted a large number of events, lectures, conferences and outreach activities.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), with the objective of fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues, organised several important events during the period which, among others, include: India-Central Asia Economic Cooperation; Launch of South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015; Fourth Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks; Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Blue Economy Dialogue; Consultations on Financing for Development; ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lecture; Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Links; Financing for Development and Post 2015 Agenda; Consultations on India-Africa Partnership; Consultations on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); India-Africa Partnership: Future Directions; Panel Discussion on Trans-Pacific Partnership; Roundtable on ASEAN-India: Integration and Development; Release of ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015; Special Address on India-Africa Partnership and Sustainable Developments by H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Hon'ble President, Republic of Liberia; Conference on WTO and SDGs: Issues before the Nairobi Ministerial. RIS also conducted two capacity building programmes under ITEC with focus on 'Learning South-South Cooperation' and Trade

Policy and Analysis. The Institute also brought out a number of publications that include the South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015, Prospects of Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean, India-Africa Partnership Towards Sustainable Development, ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015, among others.

Finance and Budget

The total budget outlay for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for 2015-16 was Rs 14966.83 crores (cr.) which was 1.67% more than the budget allocated for 2014-15 (Rs. 14730.39 cr). A major part of this Budget is committed towards technical and economic cooperation with other countries through both Plan and Non-Plan funds. The Plan component of MEA's Budget caters to several large developmental projects in the areas of infrastructure, hydroelectric power projects, agriculture, industry etc., which are undertaken in the neighbouring countries of India like Bhutan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the financial year 2015-16 were Bhutan (Rs. 1200 cr), Bangladesh (Rs. 250 cr), Afghanistan (Rs. 550 cr.), Sri Lanka (Rs. 500 cr), Nepal (Rs. 420 cr), Myanmar (Rs. 120 cr) and African countries (Rs. 200 cr). Some other beneficiaries include Maldives, Mongolia, countries from Latin American, Eurasia and other regions.



Afghanistan

Both India and Afghanistan enjoy close bilateral relations and a robust strategic partnership institutionalised by the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in October 2011 during the visit of President Hamid Karzai to India. This Agreement covers a broad spectrum of areas including political and security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, capacity development and education and social cultural and people to people relations. This is based on our historical and civilisational links and has been strengthened by India's role in the economic development and reconstruction of Afghanistan in the last two decades. India has attempted to assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts as a means to bringing about peace, security and stability in that country.

India's bilateral assistance programme for Afghanistan encompasses US\$ 2 billion worth pledged commitments. India's assistance programme is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. Despite daunting logistical and security challenges, major infrastructure projects were completed and handed over to the Government of Afghanistan, including- the construction of 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram in Nimroz province and the construction of 220 KV Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul together with a sub-station at Chimtala. During this year, the sub-station at Doshi was commissioned in the month of July and one of the power transformers at the Charikar substation was commissioned in November. Construction of the Salma Dam in Herat Province is progressing well and its completion is expected shortly.

Major high level exchanges/ interaction between India and Afghanistan during this period were:

- Prime Minister visited Kabul on 25 December 2015 where he dedicated, with President Ghani, the Parliament building constructed with Indian

cooperation, to the Afghan nation. Prime Minister addressed the Parliamentarians and reiterated India's commitment to stand by Afghanistan. During this visit, PM held discussions with President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and met former President Hamid Karzai.

- External Affairs Minister visited Islamabad on 8 & 9 December 2015 to attend the fifth Ministerial conference of the Heart of Asia -Istanbul process for regional cooperation on Afghanistan. She also called on President Ghani on the sidelines of the conference.
- President Ashraf Ghani paid a state visit to India (his maiden visit to India as Afghan President) on 27-29 April 2015 at the invitation of President. During the visit, he met President and Vice President and held discussions with Prime Minister, EAM, Raksha Mantri, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry and National Security Adviser (NSA) called on the Afghan President.
- Afghan NSA Hanif Atmar visited India on 8 & 9 November 2015 for NSA talks. During the visit, he called on Raksha Mantri and also met Foreign Secretary.
- Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Karzai visited India on 16-20 November 2015 for Foreign Office Consultations. During this visit, Afghan DFM called on Vice President, EAM and Minister of State (IC) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; met Home Secretary, Secretary (M&ER), Ministry of External Affairs and Director General, ICCR apart from holding delegation level talks with Foreign Secretary.

India is actively participating in Heart of Asia- Istanbul process for regional cooperation on Afghanistan. EAM represented India at the 5th Ministerial Conference of the



Prime Minister being received by Afghan President H.E. Ashraf Ghani



External Affairs Minister addresses the Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan

Heart of Asia process in Islamabad on 9 December 2015. India would host the next (Sixth) Ministerial conference of the Heart of Asia process in the last quarter of 2016 in India. India is leading the 'Trade, Commerce & Investment Opportunities' CBM and also participates in five other CBMs under the Heart of Asia process.

Bangladesh

The sustained and mutually beneficial dialogue at various levels with the Bangladeshi leadership alongside wide-ranging people-to-people interaction has strengthened the bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh. The focus of bilateral cooperation in 2015 has been on implementation of Agreements, Protocols and MOUs as well as initiatives agreed upon during the visit of PM Shri Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in June 2015.

Significant developments during the year included unanimous passing of Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Bill, 2015 to implement the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 and its Protocol of 2011 in May 2015 paving the way for the ratification of the Land Boundary Agreement between India and Bangladesh, a task that had remained pending for decades. On 31 July 2015 the enclaves of India and Bangladesh in each other's countries were exchanged. Almost all Strip maps pertaining to land boundary have been signed and exchanged at Plenipotentiary level. Of the enclave residents, 920 persons from the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh have opted to retain their Indian citizenship and have moved to India from Bangladesh by 30 November 2015. None of the residents of the Bangladeshi enclaves in India have opted to move back to Bangladeshi mainland.

The ties between the two countries in the areas of security cooperation are unparalleled. Bangladesh leadership at the highest level has assured that its territory would not be allowed for use by anyone to harm India. All umbrella agreements required for security cooperation have been signed and ratified by both countries. A Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) is in effect between both countries since 2011. The CBMP aims to synergize the efforts of both the Border Guarding Forces for more effective control over cross border illegal activities and crimes as well as for maintenance of peace and harmony along the India-Bangladesh border. Regular meetings of senior official on security matters have been held. Under the regular exchange of visits between Defense forces, Chief of Army Staff of

Bangladesh, Gen. Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Haq visited India on 8-11 September 2015 while the Chief of Naval Staff of Bangladesh, Vice Admiral Muhammad Farid Habib on 2-5 November 2015. The Chief of Naval Staff of India visited Bangladesh. Indian Chief of Army Staff Gen. Dalbir Singh visited Bangladesh in June 2015 to review the passing out parade (POP) of the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA). The 5th Army to Army Staff Talks were held with Bangladesh in October 2015. The 3rd Navy to Navy Staff Talks were held in New Delhi from 29-30 July 2015. The first DG Level Coast Guard Talks were held in New Delhi in April 2015.

Prime Minister visited Bangladesh on 6-7 June 2015 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina. This was Prime Minister's first visit to Bangladesh. During the visit, Prime Minister called on the President of Bangladesh, Md. Abdul Hamid and had extensive talks with Prime Minister Hasina on issues of bilateral, regional and international importance. He met the Leader of the Opposition, Rawshan Ershad, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, and representatives of various Left parties. Twenty two (22) agreements/MoUs were signed/exchanged during the visit including Exchange of Instrument of Ratification of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement and its Protocol of 2011; Exchange of Letters between the two Foreign Secretaries on Modalities for implementation of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement and its Protocol of 2011; Agreement on Coastal Shipping; Renewal of the Bilateral Trade Agreement, the Protocol on Inland Waterways, Transit and Trade (PIWTT), and the Cultural Exchange Programme; MoU on the establishment of an Indian SEZ in Bangladesh; MoU for extending a new Indian Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 2 billion to Bangladesh; MoU on prevention of Human Trafficking; MoU on prevention of smuggling and circulation of Fake Currency Notes; MoU in the field of Blue Economy and Maritime Co-operation in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean Region, etc. Government of Bangladesh conferred the 'Bangladesh Liberation War Honour' on former Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, for his outstanding contribution to the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

Other high level visits from India included visit of Shri J P Nadda, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare from 18-21 November 2015 to attend Annual Board Meeting of Partners in Population and Development (PPD). Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura visited Bangladesh from 09-13 December 2015. Shri Ch. Birender



India and Bangladesh sign ratification pact to operationalise the Land Boundary Agreement. In pic: Foreign Secretaries of India and Bangladesh exchange Instruments of Ratification of India-Bangladesh LBA-1974 and Protocol-2011 in the presence of the two Prime Ministers

Singh, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking and Sanitation visited Bangladesh from 10-14 January 2016 to attend South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) conference. Hon'ble Speaker Smt Sumitra Mahajan visited Dhaka for South Asian Speakers' Summit on 30-31 January 2016. \$

From Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited New Delhi to attend the funeral of Smt. Suvra Mukherjee, wife of President Pranab Mukherjee on 19 August 2015. Both the Prime Ministers discussed the progress of implementation of land boundary agreement and further steps to enhance regional connectivity.

Other high-level visits from Bangladesh to India in 2015 included visit of Mr. Zahid Maleque, State Minister for Health & Family Welfare to New Delhi on 8 April 2015 for the 5th Meeting of SAARC Health Ministers. Ms. Ismat Ara Sadique, State Minister for Public Administration visited New Delhi and Mussorie on 4-8 May 2015 and inaugurated one batch of Mid Term Career Training of Bangladeshi civil servants in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of

Administration (LBSNAA). Mr. Obaidul Quader, Minister of Road Transport & Bridges visited New Delhi on 16-18 May 2015. Mr. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs visited New Delhi on 22-24 May 2015 to attend the sixth-round of India-Bangladesh Friendship Dialogue. Mr. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Hon'ble Minister of Disaster Management & Relief visited New Delhi on 9-12 July 2015 to attend 2nd Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) Ministerial Conference. Shri Biren Sikder, Honorable State Minister of Youth & Sports visited New Delhi on 28 July-06 August 2015 to attend Asia Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (AsR-CYMM). Mr. Md. Nasim, Health & Family Welfare Minister visited New Delhi on 26 August 2015 to attend a health conference. Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Commerce Minister visited New Delhi on 28 September 2015 to attend South Asian Economic Conference. Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister of Water Resources of Bangladesh paid a visit to New Delhi on 14-17 November 2015 to participate in the CII organized Water Innovation Summit. He met Sushri Uma Bharati, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International

Relations Adviser to PM of Bangladesh visited New Delhi on 07-09 December 2015 to participate in SAARC Charter Day celebrations at South Asian University. Mr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperation visited New Delhi from 09-12 December 2015 to attend Livelihoods Asia Summit. Mr. Qamrul Islam, Minister for Food of Bangladesh visited Kolkata from 14-17 December 2015 to attend 'Vijay Divas' celebration. Other important visits included visit of Chief Justice of Bangladesh, Mr. Surendra Kumar Sinha on 4-9 October 2015, visit of Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh on 24-30 June 2015, a team of Anti-Corruption Commission Bangladesh on 14-15 September 2015, Visit of Shipping Secretary of Bangladesh on 16-18 November 2015 and visit of Power Secretary on 27 November 2015. Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh visited India on 1-2 February 2016.

India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers and have an agreement on the sharing of waters of river Ganga during lean season (1 January -31 May). The two countries have a bilateral Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) that was established in June 1972 to maintain liaison between the two countries to maximize benefits from common river systems, formulation of flood control works, formulation of proposals on advance flood warning, flood forecasting and cyclone warning, as also study of flood control and irrigation projects. The 61st meeting of Technical Committee of JRC was held in New Delhi on 18 September 2015. 38th JRC meeting is likely to be held in 2016.

Several Senior official meetings to deliberate on trade, inland waterway transit, coastal shipping, power etc. were held. These were productive and allowed renewal of bilateral Trade Agreement for five years with automatic extension, renewal of PIWTT was for another five years, signing of SOP of Coastal Shipping Agreement, initialling MoU on movement of ferry and cruise vessels. Cooperation in the areas of trade, commerce and connectivity continued in 2015. 10th JSC/JWG on power was held on 27 November 2015. The Second Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Fisheries Cooperation was held on 28-29 October 2015 in Goa. Important security related agreements namely MoU on prevention of Human Trafficking, MoU on prevention of smuggling and circulation of Fake Currency Notes and MoU on cooperation between the Coast Guards of the two countries have been signed. The second round of meetings between DC/DMs of bordering districts of India and Bangladesh were organised in Bangladesh from November 2015 to January 2016.

India has extended second LoC of USD 2 billion for developing infrastructural projects in Bangladesh. This is in addition to the first line of credit of 862 USD million given by India. USD 200 million as grant in aid were released in 2015. Budget of SDP projects has been enhanced to Rs. 60 crore for execution of small development projects in Bangladesh. 8th LoC Review Meeting was held on 14-16 September 2015 in New Delhi to finalize the signing of Second LoC of USD 2 billion to Bangladesh to implement 14 infrastructural projects.

The second Sub-regional JWG's meeting on Connectivity and Transit; and Water Resources Management and Power/Hydro-power held in Dhaka on 19-20 January 2016. These meetings discussed further steps for enhancing connectivity and to explore various ways of cooperation in water management. The signing of BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement in June 2015 was a significant example of sub regional cooperation.

Bangladesh is an important Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) partner country, and a number of participants from Bangladesh have availed of training courses under the ITEC programme. In addition, special courses are underway for mid-career training for Bangladeshi civil servants. This year, a number of training programs for Bangladeshi police officers, Narcotics Department officials, Border guarding forces & defence establishment, nuclear establishment, judicial establishment, nuclear scientists etc. were organized. The slots for training of Bangladesh defense personnel were enhanced this year.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by deep mutual trust and understanding. On 28 April 2015 PM Tobgay and Ambassador formally launched the 24 central schools at Wangbama Central School in Genekha, Thimphu. GoI has supported the establishment of 37 central schools with Rs. 348.719 crores through its Project Tied Assistance (PTA) programme. The Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarship Scheme scholars were awarded to eight scholars for the year 2015-16, while the stipend for all scholars was doubled in pursuance of the announcement to that effect by PM during his visit to Bhutan in June 2014. The India-Bhutan Bilateral Trade and Transit Meeting was held in Thimphu on 25-27 May 2015 where the Indian delegation was led by the Shri Rajeev Kher, Commerce Secretary and the Bhutanese delegation was led by the Dasho Sonam P. Wangdi, Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Economic

Affairs. A Bhutanese Parliamentary delegation led jointly by the Speaker of the National Assembly Lyonpo Jigme Zangpo and Chairman of the National Council Dr. Sonam Kinga visited India from 9-14 August 2015. Earlier, a five member official delegation from Royal Government of Bhutan led by Chairman, Legislative Committee of National Assembly of Bhutan, visited New Delhi on 18-19 June 2015 to understand treaty ratification procedure. On 21 June 2015, the Mission organized a mega Yoga session at the Royal Institute of Management to celebrate the International Day of Yoga. PM Tobgay graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Two visits to India were made by the Bhutanese Minister for Economic Affairs, Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk: (i) leading a 5-member delegation from 8-13 July 2015, during which he met MoS(I/C) for Power; and (ii) from 28-30 September 2015 to attend the South Asia Economic Conclave in New Delhi. Secretary (Border Management), MHA, visited Bhutan on 2-4 September 2015 for the 10th Round of India-Bhutan Secretary-Level Talks on Border Management and Security. The 14th Meeting of the Empowered Joint Group on Hydropower Cooperation was held in Thimphu on 3 August 2015. Indian delegation was led by Sujata Mehta, Secretary (M&ER) from Ministry of External Affairs. A decision to construct three more joint venture (JV) hydropower projects to generate 1,520 MW of electricity was taken during the meeting.

The Government of India approved a total of 182 projects out of 218 worth Rs. 240 crores during the Third Bhutan-India Small Development Project Committee Meeting in Thimphu on 27 August 2015. The 4th Annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks were held on 2 September 2015 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (M&ER) and the Bhutanese delegation was led by Dasho Tshering Dorji, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan.

PM Tobgay met Prime Minister on the sidelines of the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015 in New York. The two Leaders discussed hydropower projects, SDGs, climate change, progress on small development projects, tourism, and the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) initiative. On the invitation of PM Tobgay, Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt. Mamata Banerjee visited Bhutan from 5 - 9 October 2015. During the visit, she called on PM, Minister of Economic Affairs Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk and Foreign Minister Lyonpo Damcho Dorji. She also received an audience with His Majesty the King and the

Fourth Druk Gyalpo. The Foreign Minister of Bhutan, Mr. Damcho Dorji, visited India from 22 - 28 October 2015. This was his first visit abroad after assuming office. During the visit, he held discussions with EAM in New Delhi and also attended the 3rd International Dharma-Dhamma Conference in Indore, organized by the India Foundation.

PM Tobgay visited India from 13-17 November 2015 to attend the 2nd India Ideas Conclave-2015 on 'Learning from Civilization' at Goa. During the visit, Home Minister, Minister of Railways, Minister of State for Commerce, Minister of State for Power and Foreign Secretary called on PM Tobgay. PM Tobgay thereafter visited Kolkata from 6-9 January, 2016 on invitation of the State Government of West Bengal to participate in the 'Bengal Global Business Summit 2016'.

Minister of Labour and Human Resources of Bhutan, Ngeema Sangay Tshempo visited India from 20-25 December 2015. He held meetings with Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, MoS for Labour and Employment and other senior officials.

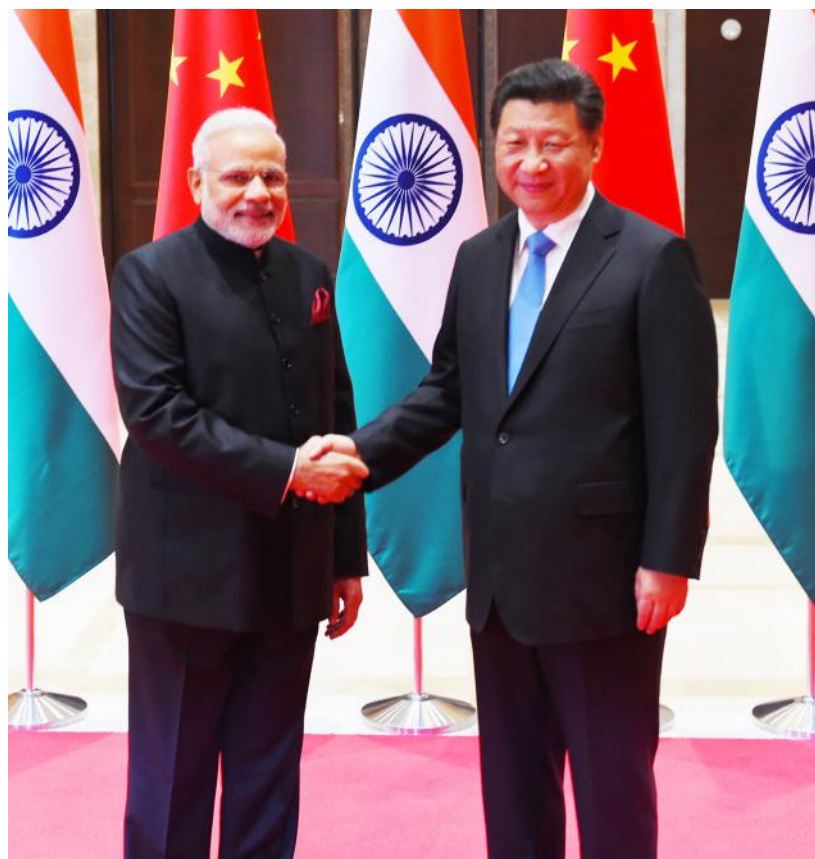
China

India's relations with China have witnessed all round progress in recent years. High level political exchanges as well as economic interactions were expanded. The two countries' cooperation on various regional and global issues such as climate change, reform of international financial institutions, Doha round of WTO, food and energy security aptly reflects this. In September 2014, the two sides agreed to forge a 'Closer Developmental Partnership' as the core of India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity.

Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi paid a successful visit to China from 14-16 May 2015. President Xi Jinping, breaking the protocol, received PM Modi in Xi'an. PM held restricted and delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang and also had a meeting with Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of National People's Congress. The two sides signed an unprecedented 24 agreements/MoUs spanning diverse fields like railways, trade & commerce, science & technology, space, mining, people-to-people exchanges etc. India and China reached an agreement to establish new Consulates in Chengdu and Chennai respectively. For the first time, a separate Joint Statement on Climate Change was issued, along with the Joint Statement on bilateral relations. The two sides held the 1st India-China



Foreign Minister of Bhutan Damcho Dorji meets EAM during his visit from 22-28 October 2015



Prime Minister meets President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping in Xi'an, China (14 May 2015)



Prime Minister and President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping at the delegation level talks in Xi'an, China (14 May 2015)



Prime Minister and Premier Li interacting with children at the Yoga-Taichi Joint Event at Temple of Heaven, Beijing (15 May 2015)



Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh addressing at the 14th SCO Summit in Zhengzhou (December 15, 2015)



Myanmar Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

State/Regional Leaders' Forum in Beijing which was jointly addressed by PM and Premier Li Keqiang. PM and Premier Li attended a joint Yoga-Taichi demonstration at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. In addition, 26 commercial/business agreements amounting to over US\$ 22 billion were signed in Shanghai. In Shanghai, PM met top Chinese CEOs and addressed the India-China Business Forum. The visit marks a milestone in the development of India-China relations and has led to more broad-basing of bilateral relationship by opening several new areas of cooperation.

Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani visited Qingdao in May 2015 to take part in the 'International Conference on ICT and Post-2015 Education' organised by the Chinese Government and UNESCO on her four-day visit. She put forward the idea of establishing a consortium of higher educational institutions as part of deeper engagement between India and China besides mutual recognition of academic degrees. Mutual recognition of universities will pave the way for more educational exchanges between both the countries.

Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress visited India from 13-16 June 2015. This was his first visit to India and it started from Mumbai, where he had meetings with the Governor, Chief Minister and a luncheon with Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. In Delhi, Mr. Zhang had meetings with Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice-President of India, in his capacity as Chairman, Rajya Sabha. Mr. Zhang and Hon'ble Speaker addressed the joint meeting of India-China Parliamentary Friendship Groups. He also called on the Prime Minister and President during the visit. The discussion covered issues ranging from enhancement of parliamentary exchanges, exchanges between provincial legislatures, people-to-people exchanges and cultural exchanges.

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao visited India from 3-7 November 2015. This was the first visit by a Chinese Vice President to India in over 60 years. He started the visit by visiting Ajanta Caves near Aurangabad and then travelled to Kolkata, where he paid a visit to Jarasanko Thakurbari, which is the ancestral home of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. In Delhi, he had a bilateral meeting with Vice President Sh. Hamid Ansari and a meeting with Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. He called on President Sh. Pranab Mukherjee on 6 November 2015. The visit was productive. Two sides signed a MoU on provision of hydrological information for

Sutlej/Langqen Zangbo river and a MoU on Exhibition of treasures 'Gupta Art in China'.

Gen. Fan Changlong, Vice Chairman of CMC visited India from 15-17 November 2015. He had meetings with Chief of Army Staff and Raksha Mantri and called on the Prime Minister on 17 November 2015. This was the highest level defence delegation from China to visit India in recent years.

7th Round of Annual Defence & Security Dialogue (ADSD) was held in Beijing from 9-11 April 2015. Indian delegation was headed by Defence Secretary Sh. R.K. Mathur. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on issues of mutual interest and agreed on the Annual Calendar of Exchanges for the year 2015.

The 5th India-China Joint Military Exercise, Hand in Hand - 2015 was held from 12-22 October 2015 at Kunming Military Academy, Yunnan, China. The Joint Exercise met its stated objectives; to exchange experience on counter-terrorism training and conducting counter-terrorism operations, enhance mutual trust and understanding and promote healthy military interaction between the two armies

The two countries have an **Exchange Programme** between MEA and International Department of Communist Party of China. The two sides signed a MoU to expand this programme during PM's visit to China in May 2015. Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, CM of Andhra Pradesh visited China and Mr. Zhao Zhengyong, Shaanxi Party Secretary visited India under this Programme in April 2015. Chief Minister of Haryana Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar visited China from 21-25 January 2016. The visit was organised under the rubric of the exchange programme between Ministry of External Affairs and International Department of the Communist Party of China. Sh. Khattar visited Beijing, Shanghai and Yunnan province during the visit. He had interactions with the leadership in Beijing and Shanghai and had a Roundtable discussion with Chinese investors. The visit provided a boost to Chinese investment in India.

Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of India, paid an official visit to China (Beijing and Shanghai) from 18 November - 23 November 2015. A consensus was reached that the two sides will further exchange high-level visits and establish India-China High Level Meeting Mechanism led by the Home Minister of India and the Minister of Public Security of China to be held in Beijing and Delhi once every two years. In order

to assist the Minister-level meeting mechanism, a Joint Secretary/Director General Level meeting mechanism led by the International Cooperation Departments of the two Ministries will be established. This mechanism will be held once a year, alternately in Beijing and New Delhi. It was also agreed that the two sides shall strengthen the cooperation in the fields of combating terrorism, drug-related crimes, cyber crimes including telecom fraud, economic crimes, illegal immigration activities, illegal trafficking in firearms and ammunition and other transnational crimes and encourage the long-term, healthy and stable development of law enforcement cooperation between them.

Minister of State for Tourism, Dr Mahesh Sharma visited China to inaugurate India's "Guest of Honour" participation in China International Travel Mart in Kunming. He also co-chaired the India - China High Level Tourism Forum.

Minister of State for External Affairs Gen(Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd) visited China thrice in 2015 - (i) when India participated as 'Guest of Honour' country at the China-South Asia Expo in Kunming in June 2015, (ii) Indian representative for the events to mark the end of World War-II on 3 September 2015 and (iii) to lead the Indian delegation at the SCO Heads of Government Meet at Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China.

India and China have an **annual youth exchange programme**. During President Xi's visit in September 2014, it was decided that from 2015-2019, there will be an exchange of 200-member Youth delegations. A 200 member Indian youth delegation visited China from 20 - 26 August 2015 and a 200 member Chinese youth delegation visited India from 17-23 November 2015.

Pursuant to the MoU on Opening of Additional Route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathu La signed during the visit of President Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, a total of five batches comprising of 216 Yatris made the pilgrimage to Kailash-Mansarovar through the Nathu La Route starting June 2015.

Pursuant to the MoU signed during the visit of PM Modi to China in May 2015, Niti Aayog & Development Research Centre of the State Council of China held the 1st Dialogue in Beijing on 23-25 November 2015. Issues such as strengthening of Sino-Indian Economic Cooperation, impact of RTAs and role of India and China in current global economic scenario were discussed.

Pursuant to the MoU for cooperation between National Book Trust, India (NBT) and China's State Administration for Press, Publication, radio, Film & Television (SAPPRFT) signed during the visit of President Xi Jinping in September 2014, China participated in the New Delhi World Book Fair-2016 as the 'Guest of Honour' country from 9-17 January 2016.

To boost bilateral tourism flows, India and China had agreed to mark year 2015 as 'Visit India Year' in China and 2016 as 'Visit China Year' in India. The function to launch the Visit China Year was held in New Delhi on 14 January 2016 in the presence of Mr. Li Jinzao, Chairman of China National Tourism Administration and Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture. Congratulatory messages were sent by Chinese President Xi Jinping and External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR) Mr. C.Y. Leung paid a visit to India from 2-5 February 2016 at the invitation of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He met with the Chief Minister and Governor of Maharashtra and had interactions with the leadership in New Delhi. A large high-level business delegation accompanied Mr. Leung and participated in several business and investment related activities.

Myanmar

India and Myanmar share friendly neighbouring relations rooted in their shared historical, cultural and ethnic ties. The bilateral relations have been further strengthened by the regular exchanges of visits, including at the highest levels. Exchanges of prime importance in the last year include incoming visits by Myanmar Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Commander in Chief of Defence Services and outgoing visits by the Indian National Security Advisor and Foreign Secretary.

In the year 2015, India and Myanmar established the Joint Consultative Commission, a mechanism for regular dialogue and review of overall bilateral relations under the two Foreign Ministers. The first meeting was held in New Delhi on 16 July 2015 and was co-chaired by Myanmar Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services led a military delegation of Myanmar armed forces including Chief of Staff of Navy and Air Force

to India from 27-30 July 2015. This was at the invitation of Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Indian Armed Forces Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha. During the course of this visit, he met the senior Indian military and political leaderships and visited key defence enterprises.

Signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) between 8 ethnic armed groups and Government of Myanmar and holding of general elections in Myanmar were two significant domestic developments in Myanmar in 2015. India, as a close and friendly neighbour, was present on both occasions. As one of the few international witnesses, National Security Advisor represented India at the NCA signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 15 October 2015.

The general elections for the Lower House, Upper House and for State Assemblies were successfully conducted on 8 November 2015 in Myanmar. Government of India had deputed a team of three election observers, nominated by the Election Commission of India, for elections in Myanmar. The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has won overwhelming majority in the elections which saw participation of over 90 political parties. The new Government is likely to take over in February-March 2016.

Institutional Mechanisms

Besides the first JCC meeting on 16 July 2015, 21st Sectoral Level Meeting was held between senior officials of Home Ministry in Mumbai from 11-15 May 2015. The seventh India-Myanmar Regional Border Committee (RBC) meeting at the Army commander level was held from 06-10 July 2015 at Leimakhong, Manipur. The quarterly Army Liaison meetings are held regularly between the two sides. The first ever Air Force to Air Force Staff talks were held from 21-23 July 2015 in New Delhi. The 4th Navy to Navy Staff talks were held from 23-25 November 2015 in Yangon. First Army to Army Staff Talks were held from 28-30 December 2015.

During the annual, Line of Credit review committee meeting, the GoI projects, being undertaken under the US\$ 500 million LOC which was announced during the visit of Prime Minister to Myanmar in May 2012, were reviewed. These include projects in railways, irrigation, telecommunication and road construction.

First meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Boundary Working Group, established at the level of senior officials to discuss all boundary related matters held from 5-8 January 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Economic and Commercial

India is the 5th largest trade partner of Myanmar with total bilateral trade of US\$ 2.0 billion in 2014-15. In terms of investment, India has moved up to ninth position with an approved investment of US\$ 726.149 million out of total estimated investments of US\$ 47.228 billion from 36 countries by 724 enterprises in 2015. State Bank of India and New India Assurance opened their representative offices in Yangon in June 2015. During the second round of bidding in 2013 for exploration and production of Onshore, Reliance had won 2 blocks-M17 & M18 and OIL won 2 blocks-YEB & M4. Both companies signed the PSC with their Myanmar counterparts in March 2015.

Government of India has approved constituting a Special Purpose Vehicle as a project development fund to help and facilitate investment by Indian business houses/groups in CLMV countries, as part of initiative on the Act East Policy.

The 2nd India-Myanmar Joint Trade and Investment Forum, a Forum of Businessmen, held on 12 January 2016 in Chennai. India, Myanmar and Thailand are in advance stage of signing trilateral motor vehicles agreement. In this regard, a trial run of vehicles between the countries was conducted in November 2015.

In view of adequate banking presence in place to support normal trade with Myanmar at the border, the Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India, decided to do away with the barter system of trade at the India-Myanmar border and switch over completely to normal trade with effect from 1 December 2015. The Duty Free Preference Scheme for the LDC has been improved to offer import of goods from Myanmar at zero duty for over 96.4% of tariff lines. The Land Customs Station at Zawkhatar (Mizoram) was inaugurated earlier by the Commerce and Industry Minister in March 2015 to boost border trade via Mizoram to Myanmar and beyond.

Work on all major development cooperation projects in Myanmar like the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, Trilateral Highway Project is in execution stage now, since financial approvals have been obtained.

Disaster Relief

Government of India responded promptly to Myanmar's request for assistance following devastating cyclone-Komen in 2015 which led to heavy rainfall and landslides in many



Indian Relief Efforts after the Nepal Earthquake



Indian Relief Operations in Dhunche after the Nepal Earthquake

parts of the country. Government of India dispatched immediate food and medicine supplies in Indian Air Force aircrafts to Kalay and Mandalay.

India is strongly committed to meeting Myanmar's developmental needs through development projects, including training, provision of expertise, lines of credit and/or grants-in-aid. A number of projects, including training centres have been completed, and new projects are under implementation. Our total developmental commitment to Myanmar, including the completed and ongoing infrastructure projects like Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project and Trilateral Highway project, is more than US\$ 1.5 billion.

India has extended considerable support to build up Myanmar's human resource capacity under the ITEC, TCS and ICCR scholarship schemes. In keeping with the commitment made during PM's visit to Myanmar in May 2012, Myanmar is being offered 500 ITEC scholarships every year.

International Day of Yoga, organized by the Embassy in Yangon and the Consulate General of India in Mandalay on 21 June 2015 was a successful event with active participation of local people in huge numbers. The live webcast of 'Digital India Week' was held at Embassy of India in Yangon on 1 July 2015.

Nepal

India-Nepal friendship and cooperation has been characterized by open borders, extensive people-to-people ties and multi-faceted socio-economic interaction. Foreign Secretary visited Nepal on 2-3 April 2015 as part of his SAARC Yatra and called on the President, Prime Minister of Nepal and Foreign Secretary of Nepal. On 16 April 2015, on behalf of GoI, Ambassador handed over a gift of 35 vehicles worth Rs.33.12 million to the Chief Commissioner of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA).

After the devastating earthquake of 25 April 2015, followed by a powerful aftershock on 12 May 2015, rescue and relief materials were dispatched by Government of India by special aircrafts within six hours of the first earthquake. During the relief phase, there was a huge outpouring of support from the Union and State governments as well as NGOs, amounting to nearly Rs. 400 cr. India's was the most substantial relief effort in Nepal.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) visited Nepal from 24-25 June 2015 to attend the International Donor's Conference organized by the Government of Nepal towards quake-related reconstruction efforts. India's assistance amounting to US\$ 1 billion (one-fourth of which is grant) was announced by the EAM. This was over and above our existing assistance of US\$1 billion to Nepal over the next five years.

Nepalese leaders Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' of UCPN (M) and Sher Bahadur Deuba of NC visited India from 14-20 July 2015 and 19 July-3 August 2015 respectively. They called on President, PM, EAM and Foreign Secretary. The 3rd bilateral Line of Credit (LoC) Review Meeting between GoI and GoN was held in Kathmandu on 3 August 2015, to review the progress made on various projects under the US\$100 million, US\$ 250 million and US\$ 1 billion LoC extended by GoI through EXIM Bank of India. A discussion was held about the modalities for implementation of the US\$ 750 million LoC pledged by GoI for post-earthquake reconstruction of Nepal. Nepalese Minister of Commerce and Supplies Sunil Bahadur Thapa visited India from 17-19 August 2015. He met the Foreign Secretary, who reiterated India's position in favour of drafting a Constitution based on consensus in making the constitution of Nepal. A 15-member Nepalese delegation led by Mr. Madhu Sudan Adhikari Director General, Survey Department, GoN, visited Dehradun from 23-28 August 2015 to attend the second India-Nepal Boundary Working Group (BWG) meeting. An agreement was reached for the utilization of GPS technology for border pillars.

On 24 August 2015, an MoU for implementation of the 41 km Raxaul-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline Project, costing Rs. 275 crores, was signed in Kathmandu on 24 August 2015 by Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and Shri Sunil Bahadur Thapa, Minister for Commerce & Supplies, GoN.

Foreign Secretary visited Nepal on 18-19 September 2015 as the PM's Special Envoy. He called on the President, PM and met leaders of major political parties of Nepal. During the visit, it was reiterated that India has been strongly supportive of constitution making in Nepal and our advice to all sides and the political leadership of Nepal was to show necessary flexibility and maturity to ensure a Constitution that has broad-based acceptance. PM Shri Narendra Modi congratulated newly elected PM Shri K.P.S. Oli on 11 October 2015. The Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of

Nepal, Mr. Kamal Thapa, visited India from 17-19 October 2015 within a week of assuming office.

About 3000 scholarships were offered to Nepalese students in 2015 for pursuing studies in Nepal and India, under the 'Bharat Nepal Maitri Shiksha Karyakram', announced during PM's visit to Nepal in August 2014.

Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Affairs Minister Kamal Thapa again visited India from 2-3 December 2015. He briefed EAM on the steps being taken by Government of Nepal to address Madhesi concerns. Prominent Madhesi leaders Shri Mahanta Thakur, Shri Upendra Yadav, Shri Rajendra Mahato and Shri Mahendra Rai Yadav visited India from 5-9 December 2015. The delegation called on the EAM and other political leaders.

The 10th meeting of the Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) was held from 6-10 December 2015 in Nepal. On 21 December 2015, EAM was informed by Nepal's Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Kamal Thapa that the Nepalese Cabinet has taken some important decisions to address and resolve demands regarding the Constitution raised by agitating Madhes-based parties. Nepalese PM K.P.S. Oli telephoned Prime Minister on 31 December 2015 and briefed him about the political developments in Nepal. Prime Minister emphasized the importance of finding a durable solution to the political problems facing Nepal based on consensus or 'sahmati'. On 6 January 2016 Vice President of Nepali Congress Ramchandra Paudel visited India and called on the EAM. On 8 January 2016, Rajendra Mahato, Chairman of the Sadbhavana Party called on the EAM.

Two Constitutional Amendments on the issues of proportional inclusion and constituency delimitation were passed by the Parliament of Nepal on 23 January 2016. India regarded this as a positive development, and hoped that other outstanding issues would be similarly settled in a constructive spirit.

Prime Minister of Nepal Shri K.P. Sharma Oli, in his first visit abroad after assuming office, visited India from 19-24 February 2016. This was preceded by a preparatory visit to India by the Finance Minister of Nepal Shri Bishnu Poudel on 7-8 February 2016. During PM Oli's visit, wide-ranging discussions on the entire gamut of India-Nepal relations were held, including developments in Nepal, as well as cooperation in the areas of reconstruction, energy and culture.

The meeting of the Joint Project Monitoring Committee of National Police Academy of Nepal was held on 28-29 January 2016 in Kathmandu. The Nepalese Army Chief visited India from 2-5 February 2016 when Hon'ble President conferred the Honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on him. The 8th meeting of the Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak was held in Patna from 8-9 February 2016. The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on power between India and Nepal was held on 28-29 January 2016 in Kathmandu.

Multilateral Events Involving Nepal and Bhutan

The Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic was signed by the Transport Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal on 15 June 2015 in Thimphu. The BBIN Joint Working Groups meeting, one on water and power; and another on transit and connectivity, was held in Dhaka on 19-20 January 2016.

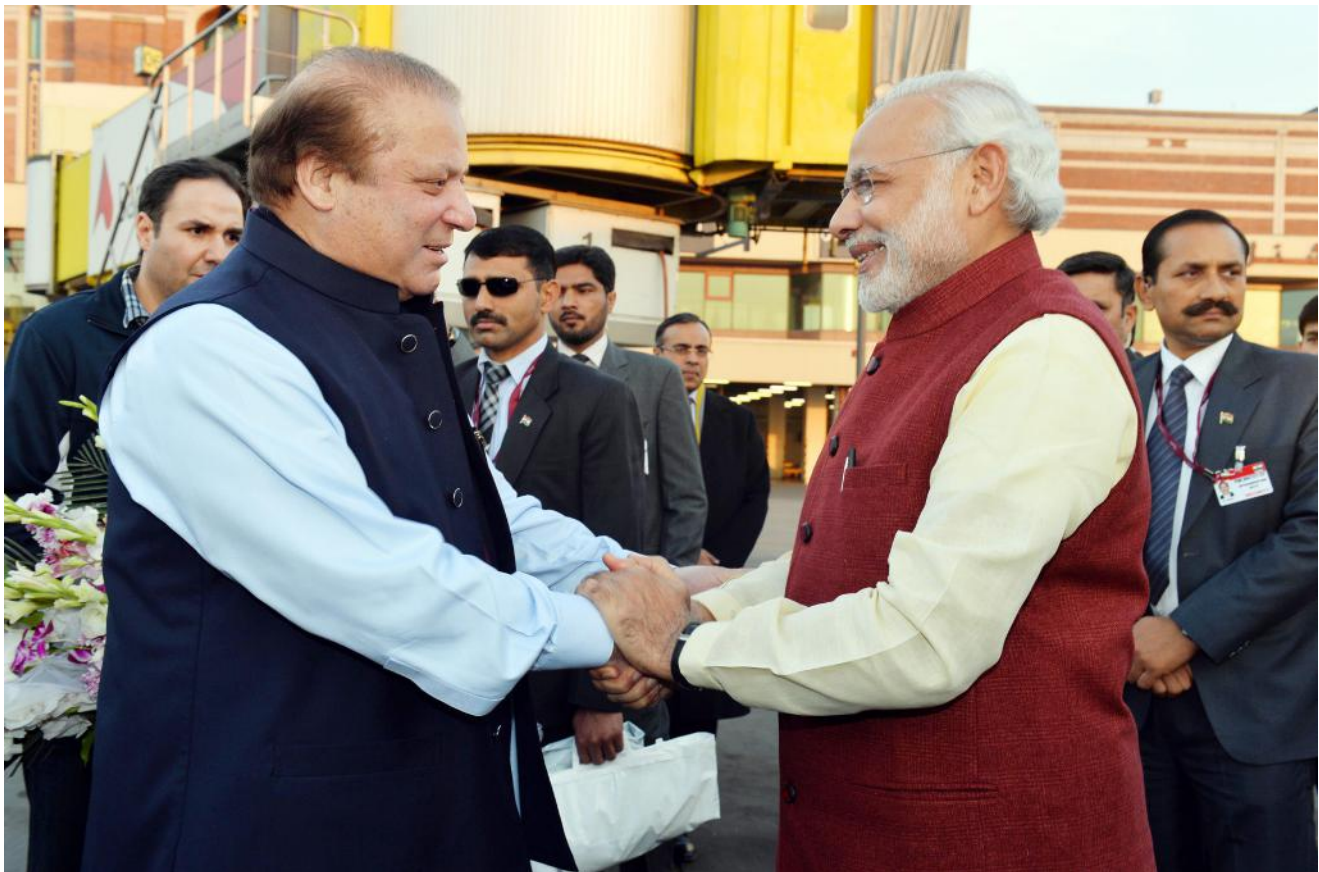
Pakistan

The period 2015-16 saw high-level engagements, both formal and informal, focused on normalising relations between the two countries, paving the way towards a meaningful dialogue. A beginning was made in form of agreement of the two countries on a new Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue to address all outstanding issues through peaceful means. Nevertheless, cross-border terrorism, cease fire violations and infiltrations across the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) remained our core concerns.

High-level Contacts

Prime Minister (PM) called Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif (PMNS) on telephone on 30 April 2015 in the context of the Nepal earthquake and later on 16 June 2015 to convey Ramajan greetings and informed about government's decision to release 88 Pakistani fishermen detained in Indian jails. The fishermen were released on 21 June 2015. Pakistan released 113 Indian fishermen on 19 June 2015.

In keeping with India's long-standing policy of strengthening relations with Pakistan through peaceful bilateral dialogue, PM met PMNS on the sidelines of the SCO summit on 10 July in Ufa (Russia). During the meeting, the two sides agreed on a meeting in New Delhi between the two NSAs



Prime Minister warmly received by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, at Lahore, Pakistan on 25 December 2015.

to discuss all issues connected to terrorism, early meetings of DG BSF and DG Pakistan Rangers followed by that of DGMOs, and discussions on ways and means to expedite the Mumbai case trial including additional information like providing voice samples. In addition, decision was also taken for release of fishermen in each other's custody along with their boats within a period of 15 days and establishing a mechanism for facilitating religious tourism.

National Security Advisers' (NSAs') meeting in August 2015 could not take place owing to Pakistan's continued insistence on inviting Hurriyat representatives to consult with the visiting NSA and attempts to unilaterally expand the agenda of the meeting.

In the run up to the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York in September 2015, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj and AFA on one hand and FS and Pakistan FS on the other hand exchanged correspondence on the possibility of meeting of the NSAs,

as envisaged at Ufa (Russia). However, the meeting in New York also did not take place due to Pakistan's initiatives to enlarge the agenda of the meeting.

NSA conveyed congratulatory message to his new counterpart Retired Lieutenant General Nasser Khan Janjua in October 2015. Mr. Sartaj Aziz held dual offices as the Adviser to PM of Pakistan on Foreign affairs and NSA till then.

PMNS, after his meeting with British PM Mr. David Cameron on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta on 28 November 2015, said that Pakistan was ready for talks with India without preconditions.

During his visit to Paris to attend COP21 Summit on 30 November 2015 PM exchanged courtesies with PMNS. The two leaders had a brief conversation without aides during which they discussed the need for the two countries to find a mutually acceptable way to create an atmosphere for re-engaging with each other.

Following PM's conversation with PMNS in Paris and in line with the Ufa understanding, the NSAs of the two countries met in Bangkok on 6 December 2015. The discussions focused on peace and security, terrorism, tranquility along the Line of Control and J&K.

EAM visited Islamabad on 9 December 2015 to attend the 5th Ministerial Conference on Heart of Asia Istanbul Process. During the visit she called on PMNS and met AFA. Following assurances from Pakistan about steps to expedite Mumbai terror attack trial in Pakistan, and the understanding for cooperation to eliminate all forms of terrorism, both sides agreed to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue on all issues including Peace and Security, CBMs, Jammu & Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek, Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project, Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Counter-Terrorism, Narcotics Control, Humanitarian Issues, people to people exchanges and religious tourism. The two ministers tasked the FSs' to work out the modalities.

PM stopped over in Lahore on 25 December 2015 on his way back from Kabul where he had arrived for a brief visit the same morning to inaugurate the Afghanistan Parliament building constructed with Indian cooperation. His visit to Lahore followed when PM conveyed greetings to PMNS on his birthday and was informed of a wedding in PMNS's family. PM was received and seen-off at Lahore airport by PMNS. The two leaders travelled together to PMNS's residence at Raiwind, where PM was introduced to PMNS's family. PM's stop over at Lahore at a short notice underscores the vision of India's leadership to build a normal and well connected neighbourhood in South Asia, including through innovative and informal means.

Mumbai Terrorist Attack Trials in Pakistan

Government expressed strong concerns to Pakistan over the release of Zakir-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, one of the key accused in the Mumbai terrorist attack (2008). He was released, on 10 April 2015, since the Lahore High Court dismissed his detention under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) and ordered his release on a surety of 2 million PKR. Later in June 2015, China blocked the Indian request for action due to violation of relevant UNSC Resolution, such as UNSCR 1267. The matter was taken up by the government at the highest level with China and was also raised bilaterally with the members of the UNSC 1267 Committee, including the Chair of the Committee.

Mumbai terrorist attacks trial underway in Islamabad is one of the important markers of Pakistan's commitment to combat terrorism emanating from its soil. However, movement in investigations and trial continues at a glacial pace; trial of 7 Pakistanis at Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) witnessed repeated adjournments and non-appearances / frequent changes in prosecution lawyers.

India continues to seek extradition of David Headley, who has been sentenced to 35 years imprisonment by US District Court in Chicago for his role in planning the Mumbai terrorist attack (2008). On 10 December 2015, Headley while testifying to TADA Court in Mumbai through video conferencing reportedly pleaded guilty and agreed to be a witness. He was asked to depose as a prosecution witness on 8 February 2016.

Cross-border Terrorism and Violence

Continued terrorism emanating from Pakistan remained a core concern. The months of July and August saw an increase in the number of Cease Fire Violations (CFVs) and unprovoked firing, along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC), leading to death of defence personnel and civilians. As per available information, 152 CFVs were recorded along LoC during 1 January - 20 November 2015 and 207 CFVs were recorded across IB during 1 January - 31 August 2015. The Gurdaspur (27 July 2015), Udhampur (5 August 2015) and Pathankot Airbase (2 January 2016) terrorist attacks saw the militancy theatre shift from J&K to Punjab. One Pakistan-based terrorist named Naved *alias* Usman was caught alive by local villagers in the Udhampur attack.

As agreed in Ufa, the Directors General of BSF and Pakistan Rangers met from 9-12 September 2015 in New Delhi. The meeting covered the entire gamut of border management issues that traditionally figure in the regular bi-annual Directors General of BSF and Pakistan Rangers meetings. In particular, detailed discussions were held on mechanisms enhancing safety and security of border force personnel and civilian populations along the border, improved coordination between the BSF and Pakistan Rangers and expeditious release of civilians inadvertently straying across the International Border (IB). The two sides agreed to the need for enhanced communication between commanders of the two forces at all levels and establishing mechanisms to enhance exchange of information between the two forces to combat smuggling and trafficking of narcotics, Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN), arms and ammunition

Jammu and Kashmir

Pakistan raised its rhetoric on Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) issue domestically as well as in international forums. Several Pakistani organisations held local meetings with community participation marking various days related to developments in J&K.

Pakistan also stepped up its efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue at the UNGA, publicly calling for involvement of the UN. PMNS during his address to UNGA on 30 September 2015, proposed four-point for a so-called new peace initiative. During her UNGA address on 1 October 2015, EAM responded to PMNS that for peace action on only one point was needed by Pakistan, that is, to give up terrorism. In addition, the Indian representative also exercised Right to Reply (RoR) on 1 October 2015 and stated the well-known position of India on J&K, that the region is under foreign occupation and the occupier in question was Pakistan.

Pathankot Airbase Attack

The Indian Air Force Station at Pathankot came under terrorist attack on 2 January 2016. The attack claimed the lives of 7 defence personnel. Although initial information available pointed to the involvement of banned terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM), the United Jihad Council (UJC) led by Syed Salauddin claimed responsibility for the attack. Specific and actionable information on leads provided to Pakistan.

On 2 January 2016, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) issued a press release condemning the attack and stated that it was in touch with the Indian government and was working on the leads provided. Later, on 5 January 2016 PMNS called PM on telephone from Colombo (Sri Lanka) wherein, PM strongly emphasised the need for Pakistan to take firm and immediate action against the organizations and individuals responsible for and linked to the attack.

On 8 January 2016, PMNS chaired a high level meeting attended by Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff, AFA, NSA, FS and others. The statement released by MoFA, subsequently, stated that the meeting among other things discussed the Pathankot terror attack and reviewed the progress made on the information provided by India.

Humanitarian Issues

Government's efforts facilitated return of Geeta *alias* 'Meetu'

to India on 26 October 2015. Geeta was accompanied by members of a Karachi based NGO called Edhi Foundation which had sheltered her during her stay of over 10 years in Pakistan, after she had inadvertently strayed into Pakistan as a child. Prior to her return, government had sought help of various possible official agencies and state governments to ascertain her place of origin and parentage. Government continues to make all efforts in this regard.

Matters related to the civil prisoners and Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody continue to be dealt with in a regular manner. Due to Government's efforts 4 Indian civil prisoners 448 Indian fishermen have been released by Pakistan during the year 2015. A 9-member delegation comprising officials and fishing boat owners from Gujarat visited Pakistan with regard to release of Indian Fishing Boats (IFBs) from 18-19 July 2014. Subsequently, on 23 March 2015, 57 IFBs were released by Pakistan. On similar lines a 6-member delegation is envisaged to visit Pakistan for release of 22 IFBs, in 2016.

Business

The Joint Business Forum, comprising 15 top level business representatives from both the countries met on 27-28 July 2015 in Lahore and examined priority areas for cooperation in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, energy, SMEs, banking & finance, connectivity and visa facilitation.

Indian Ocean Region

2015 saw a concerted focus by India on securing interests in a safe and secure Indian Ocean and a stable and prosperous Indian Ocean Region. The direction was set with Prime Minister's visits to Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka in March 2015. The process was given form through the creation of a separate Division in MEA in January 2016 for the Indian Ocean Region, bringing together relationships with key countries in the region such as Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and the structured Trilateral Maritime Security Dialogue (between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives) to address geo-strategic security, economic and developmental interests in the Indian Ocean Region. India's approach to the future track of the Indian Ocean Region Association (IORA) was also made integral to this approach.

Sri Lanka

India-Sri Lanka relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift during the last year. Bilateral relations reached a new high in 2015 with a number of high level

visits. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe paid an official visit to India from 14-16 September 2015. This was his first overseas visit after the Parliamentary elections in August 2015. Bilateral Agreement on Orbit Frequency Coordination of Satellite for SAARC Region, Exchange of Letters on Establishment of Emergency Ambulance Services in Sri Lanka, Renewal of MoU regarding Indian grant assistance for implementation of Small Developmental Projects and MoU regarding supply of Medical Equipment to 200 bed ward complex at District General Hospital, Vavuniya were signed during the visit.

Some of the other important bilateral visits and meetings are:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena on the margins of 70th United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York on 25 September 2015.
- Former President Dr. Abdul Kalam visited Sri Lanka on 25-27 June 2015 to participate in an International Energy Symposium.
- Air Marshal G.P. Bulathsinghala, Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force visited India from 26-30 July 2015, on an invitation from the Chief of Air Staff.
- Admiral R.K. Dhowan, Chief of the Naval Staff, visited Sri Lanka from 23-24 November 2015 to attend the sixth annual International Maritime Conference 'Galle Dialogue 2015' conducted by the Sri Lankan Navy at Galle.
- General Dalbir Singh, Chief of the Army Staff visited Sri Lanka from 29 November - 3 December 2015 on an invitation extended by the Commander of the Sri Lankan Army.
- A nine-member delegation led by Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Karunasena Hettiarachchi visited New Delhi from 20-22 September 2015 to participate in the third India - Sri Lanka Annual Defence Dialogue (ADD).
- Shri Arvind Gupta, Deputy National Security Advisor of India, visited Sri Lanka from 1- 3 September 2015 to participate in the fifth International Defence Seminar conducted by the Sri Lanka Army.



Prime Minister meeting with H.E Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe Prime Minister of The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in New Delhi (15 September 2015)

- Foreign Secretary visited Colombo on 12-13 January 2016 and called on President Maithripala Sirisena, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera, Minister for Development Strategies and International Trade Malik Samarawickrama, Leader of Opposition R. Sampanthan besides holding discussions with Foreign Secretary Chitranganee Wagiswara.
- The 4th Commerce Secretary level Talks were held in New Delhi on 21 December 2015 where the Sri Lankan delegation was led by Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce T.M.K.B. Tennakoon, counterpart to Commerce Secretary Rita A. Teotia.

India's relationship with Sri Lanka has been progressing in keeping with the "neighbourhood first" principle. Since 2005, the Government of India has committed INR 2,300 crore as grant assistance and INR 12,900 crore under Lines of Credit for the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons and reconstruction of infrastructure in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. Projects related to the development of rail and port infrastructure, connectivity and transportation, education, public health, housing, vocational training and economic revival have been undertaken with a sense of urgency. India's flagship project of assistance to Sri Lanka - the Housing Project, with an overall commitment of over INR 1,372 crore in grants, is progressing well and completion of second phase is expected shortly. Projects completed in 2015 include the Mahatma Gandhi International Centre in Matale, Language Labs in Ampara, Matara, Badulla and Jaffna and a 200 bed ward complex in Vavuniya. Other important on-going projects include construction of a Cultural Centre in Jaffna, setting up of Faculties of Agriculture and Engineering in Kilinochchi, setting up a Coal Power Plant in Sampur, renovation of the Duraippah Stadium in Jaffna, and construction of Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium in University of Ruhuna in Matara.

Bilateral cooperation has continued to expand in various areas particularly, defence, economic, education, agriculture, development partnership, culture and people to people exchanges.

Third India-Sri Lanka Annual Defence Dialogue was held on 21-22 September 2015 in New Delhi where all issues related to defence cooperation were discussed. 5th Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks were held in Sri Lanka from 2-5 September

2015. The 1st Indian Coast Guard-to-Sri Lankan Coast Guard Staff Talks were held on 8-10 September 2015 in Colombo. 6th Air Force-to-Air Force Staff Talks were held in Sri Lanka from 15-17 September 2015. The 5th Army-to-Army Staff Talks were held in India from 20-22 January 2016. The year saw visits from India of Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Navy Staff. Sri Lankan Air Force Commander and Defence Secretary visited India. In addition to regular exchange of visits of defence forces; staff talks, joint military training and exercises and ship visits were conducted between the two countries. Indian Coast Guard Ship Varaha was gifted to Sri Lanka in August 2015 as a goodwill gesture.

Bilateral trade and investment continued to grow, spurred by growth in both economies. Trade between the two countries has grown rapidly to rise to US\$ 7.45 billion in 2014-15. In the investment field, India is one of the major foreign investors in Sri Lanka, with cumulative investments of nearly US\$ 1 billion since 2003. India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner globally, while Sri Lanka is India's second largest trading partner in the SAARC. India continued to be the largest source of tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka in 2015. Leading Indian companies have significant investments in Sri Lanka and a number of Sri Lankan companies have successfully entered Indian market.

Cultural cooperation has expanded between the two countries through the activities of Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo. The First International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2015 was celebrated with great fanfare in Sri Lanka at the iconic Galle Face Green. Sangam: Festival of India in Sri Lanka, 2015-2016 was inaugurated by Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka in Colombo on 19 November 2015.

In the education sector, India has been assisting Sri Lanka in capacity-building efforts by way of training under ITEC and other programmes. During the year, Sri Lanka was offered 200 slots under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme and Colombo Plan and 790 scholarship slots were offered to deserving Sri Lankan students, at the "A" level, undergraduate, postgraduate and research levels. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges have continued to grow with exchange of youth delegations to further strengthen the strong bonds between the two countries.

Maldives

2015 marked the 50th Anniversary of establishment of



Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Dunya Maumoon met EAM on an official visit to India from 20-21 November 2015.



External Affairs Minister calls on President Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim of Mauritius in New Delhi (07 December 2015)

India-Maldives diplomatic relations. 1 November 2015 was celebrated as India-Maldives Friendship Day.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India Shri J.P. Nadda joined the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Maldives independence as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy. During his visit from 25-27 July 2015, he called on the President of Maldives Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, met Minister of Foreign Affairs Dunya Maumoon, held delegation level talks with Maldives Minister of Health Iruthisham Adam and also visited the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, which is a flagship project of India-Maldives bilateral cooperation.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Maldives from 10-11 October 2015 for the 5th India-Maldives Joint Commission, which was held after a hiatus of 15 years. The Joint Commission reviewed the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship. EAM called on Maldives President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and met Minister of Health Irthisam Adam and Minister of Economic Development Mohamed Saeed. Her visit included a special interaction with the members of the Indian community in Maldives. Two MoUs were signed, on co-operation in the field of Youth and Sports and co-operation between the Foreign Service Institutes of both countries.

Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Dunya Maumoon made an official visit to India from 20-21 November 2015. She met EAM and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. EAM and Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Dunya Maumoon also met (30 September 2015) on the sidelines of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In an unprecedented mark of respect, President of Maldives Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and all his senior Cabinet Ministers visited the Indian High Commission in Male to sign the condolence book and pay homage to late former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who passed away on 27 July 2015. Speaker of People's Majlis Abdulla Maseeh and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Abdulla Saeed also visited the Mission to pay their condolences.

Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Maldives as part of his SAARC Yatra from 3-4 August 2015. During his visit, he called on then Vice-President Ahmed Adeeb, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dunya Maumoon and Foreign Secretary Dr. Ali Naseer. Foreign Secretary visited Maldives again on 11 January 2016 when he called on President Yameen, Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon and held discussions with

Foreign Secretary Dr. Ali Naseer.

The Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge) & Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, visited Maldives from 3-5 June 2015 to participate in the UNWTO Regional Ministerial Conference and the 27th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commissions for East Asia & the Pacific and South Asia. He met former Tourism Minister Ahmed Adeeb, Deputy Minister of Education Yumna Maumoon and also visited the India-Maldives Friendship Faculty for Hospitality & Tourism Studies (IMFFHTS) where he held discussions with the Vice Chancellor of Maldives National University.

Former Maldivian Minister of Health Ahmed Zuhoor visited India to attend the meeting of SAARC Health Ministers. He called on (9 April 2015) Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and met Health Ministers of other SAARC countries.

Foreign Secretary Dr. Ali Naseer visited India from 7-8 August 2015 to attend a round table discussion organized by Delhi Policy Group on Indo-Maldives Relations. During his visit, Dr. Ali called on EAM and also held a meeting with Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar.

Bilateral defence and security co-operation broadened and deepened further into several areas including defence hardware and capacity building. Monthly EEZ surveillance by Indian Navy ships and aircraft was conducted. 45 marines from Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF) and 45 soldiers from Indian Army participated in EKUVERIN 2015, a joint Indian Army-MNDF Marine Corps training exercise in Trivandrum. Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, MNDF, Sri Lankan Coast Guard and Sri Lankan Navy personnel took part in the second 2nd Table Top Exercise (TTEX -15) conducted from 19-25 October 2015 at Goa which is an outcome of the Trilateral Maritime Security Dialogue between India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Phase-I of the Composite Training Centre for Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) - a project funded by India - was completed and handed over in August 2015. India also extended financial assistance for the construction of a hangar and additional facilities for housing the second Advanced Light Helicopter gifted by India in December 2013. The installation of the third radar in the Coastal Surveillance System (CSS) Project was completed and handed over to MNDF in August 2015.

Mauritius

India and Mauritius enjoy close political, economic, cultural and Diaspora linkages. 70% of the population of Mauritius is of Indian origin. Mauritius is a hub for financial services and has emerged as the largest route for FDI into India. Mauritius is also an important jurisdiction for Indian investments into Africa. India-Mauritius trade is nearly US\$ 2 billion. There is close defence partnership on issues of maritime security.

The India-Mauritius partnership further intensified and broadened in scope during this period. Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth led the Mauritian delegation at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit held in Delhi in October 2015. He had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi. The visit followed the visit of Prime Minister to Mauritius in March 2015, when he was the Chief Guest at the National Day of Mauritius and a series of bilateral agreements were finalised. This was followed by an Official visit by the President of Mauritius Dr Mrs Ameenah Gurib Fakim, recently elected as the first woman President of Mauritius, to India in December 2015.

The series of other high level visits included the following :

- Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj (May 2015) when she met the Foreign Minister Mr. Sinatambou.
 - Special Envoy of Prime Minister Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (IC) and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited Mauritius (July 2015) when he called on President Dr. Ameenah, Prime Minister Jugnauth and Foreign Minister Sinatambou.
 - Minister of State (IC) for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, visited Mauritius (August 2015) as Chief Guest for the Inauguration Ceremony of the Festival of India in Mauritius and the International Ramayana Conference. He called on Prime Minister Jugnauth, Deputy PM Xavier Duval, and Minister of Arts and Culture S Baboo.
 - Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India, Shri Birender Singh visited Mauritius in April 2015 to attend the 8th African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) Conference. He also called on Prime Minister Jugnauth.
- Other high level visits from the Mauritius side included the following :
- Finance Minister Mr. V Lutchmeenaraidoo, alongwith the Minister for Financial Services and Good Governance Mr. Roshi Bhadain and Law Minister R.Yerrigadoo visited India in June 2015 and met the Minister for External Affairs, Finance Minister and Minister of ICT.
 - The Finance Minister Lutchmeenaraidoo visited India on the sidelines of the 11th Session of the Joint Working Group on revision of the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention between India and Mauritius (June-July 2015).
 - A delegation led by the Speaker of the National Assembly Ms. Maya Hanoomanjee visited India in July 2015. The delegation met the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and discussed possible collaboration.
 - The Minister for Social Integration and Economic Empowerment Prithviraj Sing Roopun visited India in September 2015 to participate in a Study Tour organized by AARDO on Rural Development and Poverty alleviation. He also met Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking water & Sanitation Shri Birender Singh.
 - The Minister of Education and Human Resources Ms Leela Devi Dookhun headed the Mauritian delegation at the 10th World Hindi Conference in Bhopal (September 2015), where she met Hon'ble EAM.
 - The Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions Mrs F Daureawoo visited India in November 2015 and met Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri T C Gehlot.
 - The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training S.S. Callichurn led a delegation to India in December 2015.
- The Indian Naval and Coast Guard Ships that visited Mauritius during 2015 to undertake joint surveillance

and patrolling of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in addition to conducting Hydrographic Surveys included the INS Sarvekshak (March-April 2015), INS Teg (July 2015), and the Training Squadron of the Indian Navy comprising INS Sujata, ICGS Varuna and INS Tir. The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, also visited Mauritius in September-October 2015. The Chief Hydrographer, Vice Admiral SK Jha AVSM NM visited Mauritius in June-July 2015 led the Indian delegation for the 9th Meeting of the Indo- Mauritian Joint Committee on Hydrography, during which the MoU between the two countries for cooperation in the field of hydrography was renewed for a further period of five years. Vice Admiral Jha also called President Dr. Ameenah and Prime Minister Sir Jugnauth.

Several cultural performances sponsored by ICCR were organized in Mauritius. A Mauritian group also participated in the Second International Conference on Ramlila (November 2015). The 3rd World Urdu Conference was also organized in collaboration with the Urdu Speaking Union of Mauritius in November 2015 with Indian assistance.

Seychelles

2015 marked a special year in India-Seychelles partnership that encompasses development partnership, capacity building programmes, maritime security cooperation, and cultural exchanges. Blue economy, climate change, renewable energy, tourism and health are the emerging areas of focus. 10% of the population of Seychelles is of India origin.

Within months of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Seychelles (March 2015), President James Alix Michel of Seychelles paid a State Visit to India from 25-27 August 2015. President Michel held talks with President and Prime Minister, received Defence and Finance Ministers and also visited Mumbai where he met the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Joel Morgan and Minister of Trade, Finance and Blue Economy Jean-Paul Adam were among the delegation. Five agreements on bilateral air services, agricultural cooperation, blue economy, tax information exchange and gifting of a second Dornier aircraft to Seychelles were signed. Prime Minister also announced gifting of a fast interceptor boat to Seychelles during the visit.

Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (IC) and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited Seychelles (July 2015) as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, where he called on the President and met Foreign Minister Morgan. Foreign Minister Mr. Joel Morgan attended the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in October 2015 in New Delhi. Notable among the other high level bilateral visits was that by Minister of State for Culture (IC) Dr. Mahesh Sharma to Seychelles (October 2015) for the celebration of "IndiaFest 2015" and the 3rd Seychelles India Day. He called on President Michel and held bilateral talks with his counterpart Minister.

In the field of development assistance, India provided a grant of US\$ 4.3 million for procurement of public transportation buses, medicines, ICT equipment and educational items. To facilitate people-to-people contacts and travel, Seychelles has been included in the e-Tourist Visa scheme of the Government of India from August 2015. A Bilateral Air Services agreement was signed in August 2015. Air Seychelles increased the frequency of its flights to four per week from the existing three on the Mahé-Mumbai sector.

The period also witnessed further deepening of the strategic India-Seychelles defence and security cooperation, focusing in particular on maritime safety and surveillance of the extensive Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles. The Indian Naval and Coast Guard ships that visited Seychelles included INS Teg (June 2015) coinciding with the celebrations of National Day; three training ships from India (INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Varuna) (October 2015) and INS Darshak (November 2015). Indian defence personnel continued to be deployed on deputation to the Government of Seychelles under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation scheme. Seychelles took over the chair of the international Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in January 2016.

There was a significant Indian presence at the Seychelles National Day celebrations on 29 June 2015. These included participation of a marching contingent from the Indian Navy a 17-member Naval Band and a performance by Indian Army's Motorcycle Riders Display Team "Shwet Ashwa".

Presidential Elections were held in Seychelles in December 2015. President James Michel was re-elected for a third term in office. ■■

Australia

The last visit of Prime Minister to Australia in 2014 imparted a strong momentum to the bilateral relationship. Australia is emerging as an important partner in different sectors including development of mineral resources, science and technology, education and skills and water resources management. PM Malcolm Turnbull met our PM on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Turkey on 15 November 2015 and announced the ratification of the bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. This enables Australian companies to commence uranium exports to India. Foreign

Minister Julie Bishop visited India from 12-15 April 2015 for the Annual Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with EAM and she also officially inaugurated the Australian Consulate in Chennai.

The annual Senior Official Talks were held in New Delhi on 27 October 2015. The first trilateral Senior Official Talks between Australia, India & Japan at the level of Foreign Secretary were held in Delhi on 8 June 2015. Other high level visits from Australia to India included Mr Christopher Pyne, Minister of Education and Skills who came from 22-25 August 2015 for the 3rd Australia-India Education



External Affairs Minister meeting with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop MP of Australia in New Delhi (April 14, 2015)

Council meeting, Mr Kevin Andrews, Minister for Defence for bilateral defence talks from 01-03 September 2015 and Attorney General George Brandis from 25-27 October 2015. On the other hand, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, led a goodwill delegation of Parliamentarians from 25-31 May 2015 and also held important meetings related to skills development and entrepreneurship besides interaction with the Friends of India Parliamentary group in Canberra and visit to State Parliaments in Victoria and New South Wales. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Steel and Mines led a high level delegation that participated in the Asia Pacific International Mining Exhibition in Sydney from 01-04 September 2015. A composite delegation of finance ministers and senior revenue officials from Union Government and a number of State Governments visited Sydney and Canberra from 27 September-03 October 2015 to study Australia's experience in formulating and implementing the GST. Bilateral relations were also advanced through the meetings of a number of Joint Working Groups (JWGs) including, 7th, 8th & 9th rounds of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations, 9th JWG on Energy and Minerals, Joint S&T Committee Meeting and 5th JWG on Consular, Passport and Visa matters.

Minister Andrew Robb led a 450 strong business delegation to India from 10-16 January 2015 for a comprehensive 'India Week' programme besides three additional visits for discussions on the CECA and to participate in the inaugural Australia - India Leadership Dialogue. The India - Australia CEOs Forum was re-constituted and held its meeting in New Delhi on 23 June 2015.

Defence cooperation received a strong boost through the first ever bilateral maritime exercise AUSINDEX that was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 11-17 September 2015. Annual Defence Policy Talks were held in Canberra on 25 June 2015. The 4th Air-to-Air Staff Talks were held on 01 & 02 April 2015 in Canberra and 9th Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks in Sydney from 23-25 June 2015. Admiral R K Dhowan, CNS, visited Australia from 02-07 October 2015 for bilateral talks and to attend the Sea Power Conference 2015. Indian naval ships INS Satpura and INS Kamorta paid a goodwill visit to Fremantle Port from 04-08 June 2015.

On the cultural side, the International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 2015 in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Perth and other cities around Australia. Following

signing of the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Arts and Culture during PM's visit to Australia, an exhibition "The Story of Rama" in a series of 101 miniature paintings from National Museum, Delhi was on display at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra from 22 May - 23 August 2015. The Melbourne-based Australia-India Institute initiated the first Australia - India Leadership Dialogue as a Track II platform and its first meeting was held in Delhi from 25-27 October 2015.

The Indian community in Australia continues to grow in size and importance. Australian universities have attracted almost 50,000 students from India and India is now regarded as the largest source of skilled migrants. The growing significance of the community is reflected in the large scale celebration of festivals like Diwali and it was attended by a number of leaders from all political parties.

Brunei Darussalam

Bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam continued to be very close and friendly and Brunei remained Country Coordinator for India in ASEAN till June 2015. Likewise previous years, official level visits took place between the two countries, including a 16-member delegation from National Defence College of India, headed by Shri A Tripathi, to Brunei from 18-21 May 2015. The delegation called on Deputy Minister of Defence and the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces. Two ISRO teams visited Brunei in August and September 2015 in connection with tracking of the path of ISRO satellites.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei attended the "Commonwealth Youth Minister's Meeting" held in New Delhi on 27-30 July 2015. A delegation, 35-member Command and Staff Course 2015, visited India for a Staff Ride/Overseas Tour from 10-17 May 2015. Since 2012, officers from Indian armed forces have regularly attended the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command Staff Course at Staff College, Brunei.

Under the ASEAN-India student exchange programme, 15 Bruneian youths visited India for 10 days. The visit would enable connectivity between the two countries. There were visits of commercial delegations particularly from Buffalo meat importers and crude oil exporters from Brunei to India.

The outgoing High Commissioner, Dr. Ashok Kumar Amrohi was received in audience by the His Majesty, the Sultan and His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince.

Cambodia

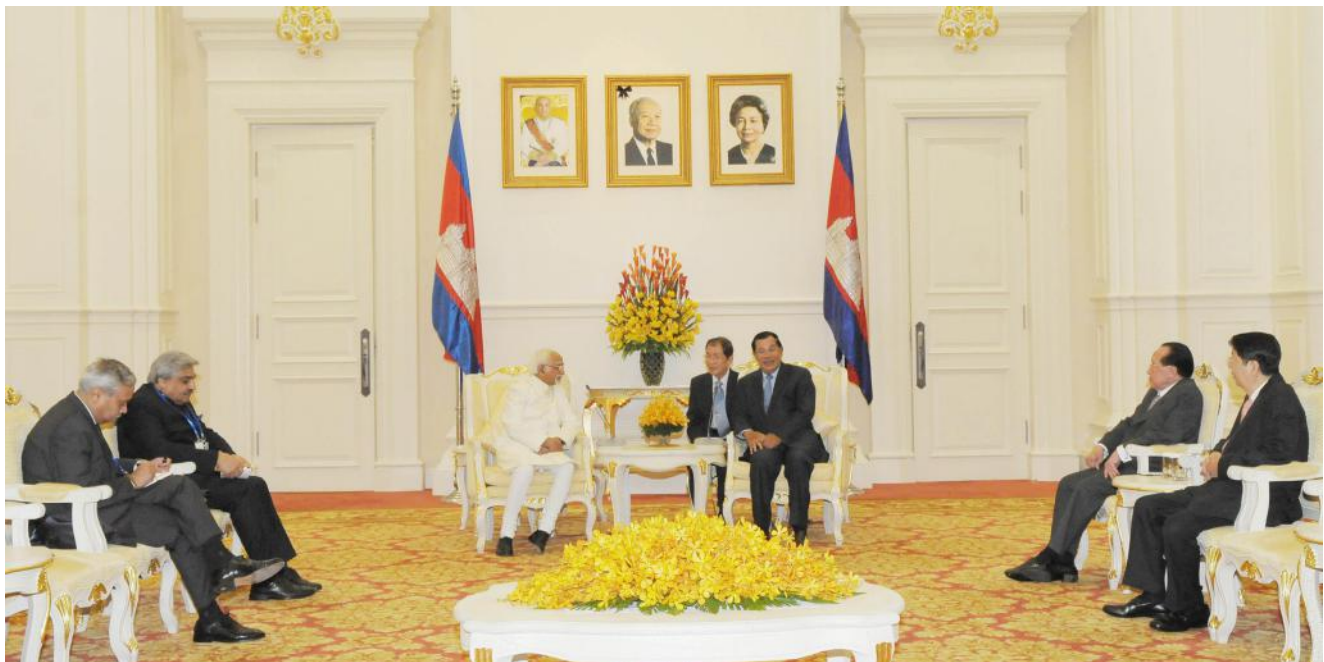
Bilateral relations between India and Cambodia remained cordial, friendly and continued to grow stronger. India and Cambodia have close civilization and cultural links from ancient times which continues today. To further strengthen our bilateral relations, Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari led a high level delegation visit to Cambodia from 15-17 September 2015 at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and held discussions with Cambodian Prime Minister and met the Presidents of the Cambodian National Assembly and the Cambodian Senate. A Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation and an agreement on Indian Grant Assistance for implementation of Quick Impact Projects under Mekong Ganga Cooperation initiative were signed during the visit.

For the financial year 2015-16, Grant Assistance of US\$50,000 each for five Quick Impact Projects related to health, women empowerment, and agriculture and skill development was also announced. Work on renovation of the India-Cambodia Friendship School in Kampong Cham

province was completed and a certificate was handed over by the Vice President to the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. Vice President also announced increase in the number of ICCR scholarships from existing 17 to 25 and offered to receive two Cambodian Buddhist monks/scholars under Distinguished Visitor's Programme. Vice President and delegation also paid a visit to the world heritage sites of Angkor Wat and Ta-Prohm temples and he also conveyed to the Cambodian side that India will commence the third phase of project at Ta-Prohm temples. The first and second phases of conservation and restoration work of Ta Prohm Temple were completed successfully by the Archeological Survey of India in July 2015.

India was appointed co-chair of the prestigious International Coordinating Committee (ICC) on Preah Vihear, a world heritage site and one of the oldest temples and pilgrimage site of Lord Shiva, in 2014. India co-chaired the 1st technical session of ICC Preah Vihear held on 6 September 2015.

To commemorate the first International Day of Yoga, Embassy teamed up with Cambodian Ministry of Tourism, Phnom Penh Municipality, the Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the region of Siem Reap (APSARA) and Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia to organize large scale Yoga events on 21 June 2015 in front of



Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari meeting with Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (September 16, 2015)

Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap and Sokha Beach Resort in Sihanoukville.

India continued its assistance to Cambodia in various fields and capacity building. The infrastructure development, construction of dam, spillway and hydrometrical works of Stung Tasal Development Project completion certificate was issued by Cambodian government to M/s WAPCOS Ltd. this year. Under Indian grant assistance of approximately US\$ 3 million, M/s WAPCOS Limited is currently undertaking two water development projects - (a) Siem Reap Basin - Development of Master Plan and (b) Study of Ground Water Resources of Kampong Speu Province. Work on these two projects, which started in 2014, continued at pace and would be completed by 2017.

Provision of training programme for Cambodian people under ITEC progressed smoothly. Till date, more than 1200 Cambodians have been benefited by the ITEC programme since its launch in Cambodia in 1981. To promote further awareness on the ITEC training courses, Embassy celebrated ITEC Day 2015 on 27 October 2015.

India-Cambodia Defence cooperation continued with the conduct of annual training capsule for Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Peacekeeping and Demining modules by expert trainers on deputation from the Indian Army from 21 September - 04 October 2015. Members of the Cambodian defence forces also continued to receive training in Indian defence establishments under ITEC scholarship.

INS 'Ranvir', a guided missile destroyer and INS 'Kamorta', an anti-submarine corvette visited Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia on a five-day goodwill visit from 23-27 June 2015 which included joint training exercises with the Royal Cambodian Navy and a medical camp for local communities. An Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Samrat' paid a goodwill visit to Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia from 07-10 November 2015, and also conducted exercises with the Royal Cambodian Navy.

Bilateral trade between India and Cambodia continued to grow. Trade delegations from MILLTEC, Federation of Gujarat Industries, Independent Power Producers of India and a number of representatives from India private Industries/Companies visited Cambodia for whom the Embassy organized business events to interact with local counterparts.

Indonesia

The year 2015 witnessed many high-level political engagements that have helped in reinvigorating our relationship and has provided the necessary momentum to the bilateral relations. Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India visited Indonesia from 1-4 November 2015. Vice President held talks with Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia and Governor of Bali Mr. I Made Mangku Pastika. Vice President unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Udayana University, Bali. Three MOUs were signed during the visit in field of Culture, Renewable Energy and for establishment of Ayurveda Chair in Faculty of Medicine at Bali. During his visit Hon'ble Vice President also interacted with Ms. Megawati Soekarnoputri, former President of Indonesia and chairperson of ruling PDI-P and members of Muslim Civil Society Organizations in Indonesia.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister visited Jakarta to participate in the 60th Asian African Conference Commemoration (AACC) during 21-24 April 2015. EAM met with Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia and Ms. Megawati Soekarnoputri, former President of Indonesia and chairperson of ruling PDI-P on the sidelines of AACC. General (Retd). Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Indonesia for participation in the Ministerial level meeting of 60th AACC in Jakarta during which he held talks with Ms. Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia on the sidelines. MoS again visited Padang, Indonesia and participated in IORA Council of Ministers Meeting on 23 October 2015.

The 3rd Foreign Office Consultations were held on 17 December 2015 in Jakarta during which several bilateral and regional issues of interest were discussed. The Indian delegation was led by Smt. Monika Kapil Mohta, Additional Secretary (South). The Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Combating Transnational Organized Crime met in Jakarta on 27 October 2015.

Prominent visits from Indonesian side during the year were the visit of Parliamentary delegations including visit of Dr. Fadli Zon, Vice Chairman of House of Representatives (DPR), delegation of People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), Regional Representative Council (DPD) and House of

People's Representatives (DPR). The Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Mr. Anies Baswedan visited India in September 2015.

India-Indonesia Defence Cooperation witnessed significant qualitative and quantitative enhancement in the year 2015. Cooperation in the field of operations, training and capacity building was achieved through the conduct of the 4th Army to Army Staff Talks and the 7th edition of the Naval Staff Talks this year. Two editions of the Coordinated Naval Patrols were undertaken in our waters of shared interest and the third edition of the Joint Army Exercise on CI/CT - 'Garuda Shakti' was held. The inaugural edition of the IND-INDO Bilateral Naval Exercise served as a significant milestone in our already robust naval cooperation. Professional interaction between personnel continued through increased ship visits by the Indian Navy & Coast Guard to various ports across the Indonesian Archipelago and by Indonesian Naval Ships to India.

Reciprocal Instructor and Cadet Exchange programs served to strengthen the personal bonds between our personnel while sharing best practices in ab-initio and professional training between the two Armies. Delegations from both countries' Armed Forces participated in important defence exhibitions, seminars and workshops in respective countries. Regular exchanges in training continued with the Indonesian Armed Forces availing a large number of vacancies offered under the ITEC scheme while our Officers continued to attend the Staff Courses in Indonesia.

India's trade with Indonesia for the period January-September 2015 (latest data available) was US\$ 11 billion which includes import of commodities worth US\$ 8.9 billion and export of US\$ 2.1 billion worth goods. The main items of import include coal, palm oil, pearls, stones, jewellery, rubber, iron and steel. India exported organic chemicals, machinery, vehicles, oil seeds, mineral fuels, cotton etc.

On 3 November 2015, during the visit of the Vice President of India to Indonesia, a 33-member high-powered Indian delegation comprising CEOs and senior representatives of Indian companies and the members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce held interaction with the Indonesian business organizations. A CD in Bahasa Indonesia on Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative was distributed among local businessmen and representatives of Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Interactions at the level of Joint Working Group (JWG) were held in the field of Health, Agriculture and Coal which discussed important bilateral issues. Important G2G interactions during the year were the visit of the delegation of Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to Jakarta and visit of Indonesian delegation from Ministry of Agriculture to India.

A 15-member high-level business delegation, comprising of CEOs and senior executives of Indian companies led by CII visited Jakarta in April 2015. A group of 35 Indian companies representing the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which participated in the 'Konstruksi Indonesia 2015' Exhibition held at the Jakarta Convention Centre on 4-6 November 2015.

Festival of India was organized from 26 January 2015 to 15 August 2015 by the Mission at Jakarta along with its Consulates in Medan and Bali. It was a grand people to people contact program in which more than 35 different events were held across 18 different cities of Indonesia and was received positively across various segments of Indonesian society. The International Day of Yoga was organized on 21 June 2015. The events were held in Jakarta, Bali, Medan and Surabaya in Indonesia and Dili in Timor Leste and more than 10,000 people took part in them.

Lao PDR

The year saw a continued upward trend in bilateral relations with Lao PDR. Infrastructure projects in areas of irrigation systems, power transmission, capacity building and human resources and cultural cooperation in restoration of heritage monuments and regular high level visits were focus of cooperation. Added to this were 100-150 scholarships given to Lao students and technical personnel for undergoing training programmes and regular courses of study in India under various schemes.

The year saw the first ever visit of Indian Vice President to Lao PDR on 17-18 September 2015. Vice President Shri Hamid M. Ansari met Lao Vice President Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit in Vientiane and discussed issues of mutual bilateral interest as well as regional cooperation through ASEAN and MGC frameworks. Discussions centered on strengthening economic and trade relations. Vice President also called on President of Laos Mr. Choummaly Sayasone and met Prime

Minister of Laos Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith and the Vice President of National Assembly Mr. Xaysomphone Phomvihane.

8th Joint Commission Meeting between India and Lao PDR took place in New Delhi on 10 August 2015. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India and Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Lao PDR led the two delegations. The entire gamut of bilateral relations were discussed and areas of future cooperation prioritized.

The 2nd Foreign Office Consultation between India and Lao PDR took place in New Delhi on 10 August 2015 with Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) leading the Indian side, while the Lao side was led by Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR.

Shri Ravi Shankar Aisola, Ambassador of India presented his credentials to President Choummaly Sayasone of Lao PDR on 10 September 2015.

A multi - Sectoral delegation mounted by FICCI visited Lao PDR from 9-12 December 2015. This followed the assurance by the Vice President about the need for closer interaction between the business sectors of both the countries to increase the level of trade between the countries.

A 12 member Bollywood Dance and Music Group led by Ms. Penaz Masani and sponsored by ICCR visited Vientiane and presented two performances on 15 & 16 August 2015.

Malaysia

Bilateral relations with Malaysia, marked by traditional friendship and cordiality, have continued to progress and expand. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, at the invitation of H. E. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, undertook an official visit to Malaysia on 23 November 2015. Earlier, PM Narendra Modi participated in the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit on 21-22 November 2015. The two Prime Ministers held official talks in Putrajaya and jointly inaugurated the Torana Gate in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, a gift from India to Malaysia, as a symbol of India-Malaysia Friendship. A Joint Statement for Enhanced Strategic Partnership was issued after the visit to build on the strategic partnership forged by the two countries in 2010. The two Prime

Ministers reaffirmed their determination to take the strategic partnership to the next level by deepening cooperation in existing areas and exploring new areas of cooperation. Both Prime Ministers also witnessed the signing of Agreement on Cultural Exchange Programme for 2015-2020 and two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Project Delivery and Monitoring, and Cooperation on Cyber Security.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Malaysia on 12-14 July 2015 to participate in RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting. She also held a bilateral meeting with her Malaysian counterpart. She visited Malaysia again on 23 & 24 August 2015 to participate in ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting. The 7th meeting of India-Malaysia CEOs' Forum was held during her visit. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh visited Malaysia on 4-7 August 2015 to participate in 13th ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 5th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and 22nd ASEAN Regional Forum. MoS (VKS) also had bilateral meeting with Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. MoS (VKS), jointly with Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Hon'ble Deputy Foreign Minister of Malaysia inaugurated 4th Round of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks Meeting organised in Kuala Lumpur by ASEAN-India Centre, New Delhi and Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Manohar Parrikar led the Indian delegation for the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) in Kuala Lumpur during 3-4 November 2015. On the margins, RM had bilateral meeting with his Malaysian counterpart. A 5-member delegation from Department of Irrigation, Government of Uttar Pradesh, led by Minister of Public Works and Irrigation Shri Shivpal Singh Yadav visited Kuala Lumpur during 27-29 April 2015 at an invitation by Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) to explore investment from Malaysian companies in river-front development projects in Uttar Pradesh. A 9-member delegation from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh led by Shri Chowna Mein, Minister for Agriculture visited Malaysia on 4-7 September 2015 and visited oil palm and rubber Plantation areas. A 4-member delegation from the Government of Rajasthan led by Minister of Public Works and Transport Shri Yoonus Khan visited Malaysia during 16-19 December 2015. The Rajasthan Government delegation

held meetings with prominent investors to discuss about the latter's participation in upcoming highway projects in Rajasthan.

A delegation led by Shri Devendra Chaudhry, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances participated in the 3rd meeting of the JWG on Public Administration and Governance in Kuala Lumpur on 28-29 September 2015. A 3-member delegation from Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways led by Shri Vijay Chhibber, Secretary (MoRTH) visited Malaysia from 12-14 April 2015 and participated in a Conference on Hybrid Annuity Model organised by Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. A 2-member delegation led by Shri R. R. Rashmi, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, and Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented India in the Special Session of Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) Assembly in Kuala Lumpur on 7-8 May 2015.

Minister of Works YB Dato' Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Minister of Works visited India in 12-16 October 2015 along with a business delegation to explore investment opportunities in Indian construction and highway projects. During his visit, he held meetings with Shri Venkaiyah Naidu, Minister for Urban Development; Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Roads, Highways; and Transport and Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman, Minister of State (IC) for Commerce & Industry. He also met with Chief Minister of Rajasthan Smt Vasundhara Raje Scindia and Rajasthan's Minister of Public Works and Transport Shri Yoonus Khan. Separately, the Malaysian delegation had a meeting with Shri Amit Mitra, Minister for Economy, Govt. of West Bengal. A Malaysian delegation led by Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi Zainal, Director General of Public Service Department, Government of Malaysia visited India from 6-12 December 2015. The delegation visited Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The Malaysian delegation was also received by Shri Devendra Chaudhry, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances on 10 December 2015 in New Delhi to discuss the Programme of Action that was mutually agreed upon during the 3rd Meeting of Joint Working Group that took place in Kuala Lumpur in September 2015. A 6-member delegation led by Dato Sri Zohari Bin Akob, Secretary General, Ministry of Works visited New Delhi and Rajasthan from 6-10 June 2015 on an invitation from Shri Vijay Chhibber, Secretary, MoRTH.

Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha attended the 2nd South & Southeast Asian Chiefs of Defence Staff Dialogue in Kuala Lumpur on 6-9 December 2015, during which he also had bilateral discussions with his Malaysian counterpart on wide-ranging defence and security cooperation.

New Zealand

India's relations with New Zealand continued to progress in various fields such as economic, scientific, cultural, people-to-people contact and coordination on regional and issues of global importance. Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) were held on 8 April 2015 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), while Ms. Andrea Smith, Deputy Secretary (Asia and Americas Group), led the New Zealand side. A Goodwill Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skills Development, Entrepreneurship and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited New Zealand from 1-3 June 2015 for strengthening ties between the Parliaments of both countries. The delegation also used the opportunity to gain insights about the facilities in New Zealand for vocational training and skill development, prospects of strengthening India-NZ economic & commercial ties and for interacting with the local Indian community.

On the other hand, New Zealand Minister of Justice, Courts, Broadcasting and Communication, Ms Amy Adams, visited India from 20-25 September 2015 to promote trade and enterprise between India and New Zealand in clean technologies, renewable energy, smart cities and information and communication technology.

International Day of Yoga was celebrated by the Indian High Commission Wellington. The Diwali function was inaugurated by New Zealand Prime Minister John Key in Auckland on 17 October 2015. New Zealand Parliament also celebrated Diwali on 10 November 2015, which was hosted by the Minister for Ethnic Communities, where New Zealand PM was the chief speaker.

The Philippines

India-Philippines partnership continued to strengthen in the period. The 3rd edition of the bi-annual Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, the highest institutionalized bilateral mechanism, was held on 14 October 2015 in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister of India Smt Sushma Swaraj and

Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Mr. Albert F. Del Rosario co-chaired the meeting. The two Ministers signed the bilateral Executive Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the year 2016-2018 and exchanged Instruments of Ratification of the India-Philippines Extradition Treaty.

Several other ministerial and official visits continued. Shri Chowna Mein, Minister (Agriculture, Horticulture, AH, Vety & DD etc) of the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh visited Philippines on 31 August-1 September 2015 to visit the International Rice Research Institute for better understanding and skill upgradation on latest rice production technologies; Undersecretary for Policy in the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Mr. Evan P. Garcia visited India under the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lecture Series on 15-17 July 2015.

The defence cooperation continued to strengthen with the visit of INS Sahyadri on a goodwill visit to Manila from 01-04 November 2015; Vice Admiral HCS Bisht, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard visited Manila from 04-06 May 2015 for the 11th Head of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting; a 26-member delegation from the College of Defence Management of India visited Philippines from 25-31 November 2015; and a 34-member delegation from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General Staff College (AFPCGSC) visited India from 30 August - 05 September 2015.

Trade relations between India and the Philippines remained steady at US\$ 1.8 billion, despite global downturn, during the first half of FY 2015-16 with a positive trade balance in India's favour. Indian investment in the Philippines has been characterised by presence of a large number of major Indian IT and Pharma firms who continue to do well in the IT enabled services and the generics sector respectively. A new trend of Indian investment is now visible in sectors such as infrastructure, automobiles, renewable energy and agriculture. Indian company, Prasad Seeds, opened a USD 10 million corn seeds facility in July 2015 in the Philippines. 50 Indian companies under the aegis of ASSOCHAM participated in the Asia Food Expo from 9-12 September 2015. A 12 member delegation from AICCI, Tuticorin visited Philippines on an exploratory visit in November 2015.

An ICCR sponsored 6-member Odissi dance troupe led by Ms. Nandini Ghosal visited Philippines in June 2015 and performed at the Asia Pacific College, Makati, Manila on

27 June 2015 and at the Davao Medical School Foundation Auditorium on 28 June 2015. A 5-member musical troupe Krosswindz visited Philippines from 19-22 November 2015 and performed in Manila. 17 students from the Philippines visited India from 25 October-03 November 2015 under the ASEAN-India Students' Exchange Programme. The number of Indian students joining various Philippines medical institutes continued to increase.

Singapore

Bilateral relations with Singapore was elevated to a new level of Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Singapore on 23 & 24 November 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook an official visit to Singapore on 23 & 24 November 2015. During the visit, he signed a Joint Declaration on a Strategic Partnership with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. A Joint Statement was issued which outlined areas of cooperation and mutual interest. Nine bilateral documents were signed in areas of defence, maritime security, cyber security, narcotics trafficking, urban planning, civil aviation, and culture. Joint commemorative stamps depicting the Presidential Buildings of the two countries were released by the two Prime Ministers on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister for Finance and Minister for Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting, visited Singapore on 18-19 September 2015. He met Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam. He gave a talk at the Singapore Summit on "India: A Haven of Opportunity in Globally Challenging Times" and had meetings with investors. Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu, also visited Singapore on 20 & 21 October 2015 to participate as a key speaker at the Infrastructure Finance Summit 2015 organized by the World Bank in association with the Government of Singapore to share experiences of the Indian Railways in infrastructure financing. Shri Anant Geete, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, represented India at the National Day Celebrations in Singapore on 9 August 2015 on the occasion of Singapore's 50th year of Independence. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister

of State for Tourism (Independent Charge), Culture (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, visited Singapore on 17&18 June 2015 to inaugurate the Buddhist Art Exhibition titled “Treasures from Asia’s Oldest Museum: Buddhist Art from the Indian Museum, Kolkata” at the Asian Civilisations Museum on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. He met with Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Mr S Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister’s Office & Second Minister for Home Affairs & Second Minister for Trade and Industry. Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for Defence, visited Singapore to attend the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue 2015. He delivered a speech at the Second Plenary Session: New Forms of Security Collaboration in Asia.

On the other hand, Singaporean Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr. K. Shanmugam, visited India on 17 - 20 November 2015 leading a business delegation

to the Resurgent Rajasthan Partnership Summit in Jaipur on 19 November 2015, in which Singapore participated as a ‘Partner Country’. He met Chief Minister of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje in Jaipur, and, in Delhi, Minister of Home Affairs Shri Rajnath Singh and National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval. Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport Mrs Josephine Teo visited New Delhi on 28-30 October 2015 to attend the Third India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). Singapore was invited as one of two “Special Invitees” to attend the Summit. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan visited New Delhi to co-chair the Fourth Meeting of the India-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) for Bilateral Cooperation with Minister of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs Sushma Swaraj on 12 October 2015. Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), S Iswaran attended the foundation stone laying ceremony at



Prime Minister and Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, at Komala Vilas Restaurant, Little India, Singapore on November 23, 2015.

Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh's new capital city, on 22 October 2015, on behalf of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who was invited to the ceremony by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Mr S Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, visited Andhra Pradesh to hand over the final master plan of the three-phase Seed Development Master Plan for Andhra Pradesh's new capital city, Amaravati, to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on 20 July 2015. The three-part Amaravati master plan was developed by Singapore's Surbana Jurong Private Limited. It also drew on Singapore's expertise and experience in urban planning and governance and project execution: the Centre for Liveable Cities and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise is providing capacity development training in various areas for Andhra Pradesh government officials involved in the development of Amaravati and the Capital Region. Mr S Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, visited Hyderabad for the handing over of the master plan for Andhra Pradesh's new capital city, Amravati, to Chief Minister Mr Chandrababu Naidu, which was unveiled on 25 May 2015.

Defence cooperation between India and Singapore was strengthened by the signing of the enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Singapore on 23-24 November 2015. Further, the Technical Agreement on sharing White Shipping Information between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy which was signed on 21 July 2015 by Admiral R K Dhowan, Chief of Naval Staff with his counterpart, was operationalized during PM's visit. Besides, there were regular exchanges between the three Services and the defence establishments of India and Singapore.

India and Singapore have close economic and commercial ties which has shown some declining trends during the current year (17 per cent decline in the volume of bilateral trade). The total bilateral trade for FY 2015-16 (April-October) was US\$ 8.6 billion with Indian export of US\$ 4.2 billion.

The outward Indian FDI to Singapore increased from US\$351 million in 2004-05 to US\$38.9 billion (October 2015), with Singapore being one of the most favoured destinations for Indian investments abroad. This year (1 Apr - 31 Oct 2015), Indian investments in Singapore has reached US\$ 2.18 billion. Singapore is the second largest source

of FDI for India, the total inward FDI from Singapore to India from April 2000 to September 2015 being US\$38.9 billion. Singapore is the largest investor so far this year with FDI Inflows from Singapore (1 April - 30 September 2015) amounting to US\$ 6.69 billion.

Thailand

India's relationship with Thailand continued to deepen and strengthen during the year with the exchange of high-level visits and enhanced interactions at all levels.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs (EAM) visited Thailand to co-chair the 7th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission (JCM) and to attend the 16th World Sanskrit Conference in Bangkok from 27-29 June 2015. EAM called on Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and General Prem Tinsulanonda, President of the Privy Council of Thailand. EAM and Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) & Minister of Foreign Affairs General Tanasak Patimapragorn held delegation level talks and discussed wide-ranging areas of economic and commercial cooperation, security, culture, science and technology, information communication and technology, education, agriculture, legal and consular matters. Both Ministers exchanged the Instruments of Ratification of Extradition Treaty and signed the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on establishment of Nalanda University and witnessed signing of MOU on establishing a Chair on Ayurveda at Rangsit University.

Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor visited Thailand on 1 & 2 April 2015. Shri Doval called on Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha, DPM & Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan, DPM & Minister of Foreign Affairs General Tanasak and met Mr. Anusit Kunakorn, Secretary General of the National Security Council of Thailand.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry visited Thailand to attend the 71st Commission Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on 28 & 29 May 2015. During the visit, Smt. Sitharaman called on M. R. Pridiyathorn Devakula, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and General Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister of Commerce of Thailand and addressed the business event organized by the Embassy.

Bilateral trade for the period January – September 2015 was US\$ 6.18 billion. The 29th meeting of bilateral Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) was held from 15-17 June 2015 in Bangkok. Shri Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion visited Thailand to conduct the roadshow on ‘Make in India’ on 16 & 17 November 2015. Embassy in association with the Government of India Tourism Office, organized an Indian tourism promotion event in Bangkok on 8 July 2015. India and Thailand celebrated the 100th anniversary of relations between the city of Surat and Surat Thani in Thailand by organizing the Southern International Trade Expo in Surat Thani from 23 – 26 July 2015. A delegation of 140 businesspersons and exhibitors from Surat, Gujarat participated in the Expo.

Shri Manohar Parrikar, Minister of Defence met General Prawit Wongsuwan, DPM & Defence Minister on the sidelines of the 3rd ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM-plus), in Kuala Lumpur on 3 November 2015. Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee visited Thailand from 6-9 September 2015. Admiral R. K. Dhowan, Chief of Naval Staff visited Thailand from 23-27 July 2015. The fourth meeting of High Level Defence Dialogue is scheduled to be held in Bangkok on 21 & 22 December 2015. Joint exercise MAITREE was held in India from 25 May - 7 June 2015. The 6th bilateral Air Staff Talks were held in Pattaya from 2-5 September 2015. The 21st Cycle of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was held in Phuket from 12-21 November 2015. Two ships from the Indian Navy, viz. INS Satpura and INS Shakti paid a goodwill visit to Sattahip Port from 23-27 June 2015. Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Samrat visited Bangkok from 2-5 November 2015. Five Indian defence production companies participated in Defence and Security Exhibition in Bangkok from 2-5 November 2015.

The first meetings of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on Maritime Cooperation and Legal and Judicial Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 27 & 28 October 2015. The 10th meeting of Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation held in India on 18 & 19 January 2016.

Four meetings of Transport Ministry Officials of India, Myanmar and Thailand on the finalization of Motor Vehicles Agreement of the Trilateral Highway were held in Chennai on 18 April 2015, in Bengaluru on 2 & 3 June 2015; in Bangkok on 13 & 14 July 2015; and 16 & 17 September 2015.

In 2015, around 1 million Indian tourists visited Thailand and over 100,000 Thai tourists visited India. Familiarization visit of four Thai Journalists to India at the invitation of Government of India took place from 14-21 June 2015.

The second edition of the ‘Festival of India in Thailand’ (February – May 2015) was dedicated to the commemoration of the 60th birthday anniversary celebrations of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. PM General Prayut Chan-o-cha inaugurated the ‘India through the lens of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’ photo exhibition and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn attended the concluding event of the Festival – Literary Fest, “Words on Water” on 25 May 2015. Over 7000 people participated in the First International Day of Yoga in Bangkok on 21 June 2015. The event was covered extensively in the local media.

Vietnam

The Strategic Partnership between India and Vietnam was consolidated further during the year 2015-16. Economic cooperation was accorded strategic priority, even as efforts continued to implement decisions taken at the highest level, encompassing all areas of the bilateral comprehensive cooperation.

Smt Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha visited Hanoi from 28 March - 1 April 2015 for the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor visited Vietnam from 3 & 4 April 2015. Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, Chief of Air Staff visited Vietnam from 9-11 September 2015. Similarly from Vietnam, General Phung Quang Thanh, Defence Minister visited India from 23-26 May 2015. A Joint Vision Statement for the period 2015-2020 on Defence Cooperation and a MoU on cooperation between the Coast Guards of the two countries was signed during the visit. Dr Tran Chi Thanh, President of Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute, Mr. Tran Hong Ha, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr. Nguyen Nam Viet, Party Secretary of Long An Province, Mr. Tran Dac Lai, Vice Chairman of the Central Commission for External Relations of the CPV, etc also visited India.

Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has seen continuous growth over the past few years. India is now among the top ten trading partners of Vietnam. Both sides agreed on a new trade target of US\$ 15 bn by 2020. Bank of India was granted license in July 2015 to open its first

commercial branch in Ho Chi Minh City. During the year 2015-16, the Embassy of India in Hanoi and the Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City organised over 25 trade promotion events and seminars on doing business with India in various parts of the country. PetroVietnam granted ONGC Videsh Limited another one year extension up to June 2016 for offshore exploration of block 128 and continued its negotiations for acquiring block 102-106 for oil and gas exploration. Implementation of the MoU on a US\$100 million Line of Credit (LOC) for defence procurement, which was signed during Rashtrapati's visit to Vietnam in September 2014, was on track.

Bilateral defence relation is broadening and deepening into all the areas of defence co-operation including defence production. Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha visited Vietnam from 9-11 September 2015. Indian Coast Guard ship "ICGS Sarang" headed by DIG N K Kaul made a four day port call to Ho Chi Minh City from 27-31 August 2015. The Coast Guards from both sides shared experience in anti-smuggling and anti-poaching patrols and held sports activities. Indian Navy Ship INS Sahyadri with 300 crew members headed by Capt. (IN) Kunal Singh Rajkumar, paid a 5-day goodwill visit to Danang from 1-6 October 2015. The 3rd Conference of the Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action - Field Training Exercise (FTX2016) co-chaired by Vietnam and India, opened in Hue (Vietnam). The Indian delegation was led by Shri Jiwesh Nandan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

Vietnam has, over the years, been a large recipient of training programmes under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. The 1st International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated at the Quan Ngua Sports Palace in Hanoi on 21 June 2015 with participation about 5000 people and 900 yoga practitioners. Several dignitaries attended the event. The IDY was also celebrated in 9 other provinces. A conference on "Vietnam-India Cooperation on Culture, Society, Education and Training" was held on 30 June 2015 in Hanoi by the Centre for Indian Studies, Ho Chi Minh Academy of Politics. A photo exhibition titled "Vietnam and India - For peace and Development" was inaugurated on 28 August 2015 by Ambassador at the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City. A seminar was organised by the Centre for Indian Studies of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities on 28 October 2015 on "Indian Culture and Vietnam-India Cultural Cooperation

and Development in this field". ICCR sponsored rock group Krosswinds toured Vietnam from 13-19 November 2015. They performed in Hanoi and other neighbouring provinces.

Countries of Pacific Islands

Fiji

India-Fiji bilateral relations remained strong and progressed phenomenally during 2015. Bilateral interaction was more extensive and diversified, its various facets being bilateral visits; development partnership; indian technical and economic cooperation (ITEC); cooperation in education and health sectors, and cultural exchanges.

The Fiji Prime Minister Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015. During his visit, a bilateral meeting was held between Hon'ble Prime Minister and Fiji PM on the side-lines of the Summit in Jaipur where various bilateral issues viz. trade, defence, climate change, health, etc. were discussed for furthering relations between India and Fiji.

Hon'ble Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh, Minister for Rural Development visited Fiji for 30th Meeting of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) Executive Committee (EC-30) and 20th Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-20) & 7th CIRDAP Regional Policy Dialogue (RPD-7) held from 17-21 August 2015.

Government of India donated 5000 Akash UbiSlate tablets to Fijian Government for schools in September 2015 at a cost of INR 2,81,10,000/- and 300 sewing machines to Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation in September 2015 at a cost of US\$ 15,074/-. Foreign Service Institute (FSI) conducted a course for diplomats of Pacific Island Countries, in Nadi, Fiji from 4-8 May 2015. In 2015-16, India offered 140 slots in civil training courses (110 under ITEC and 30 under TCS Colombo Plan) and 33 slots in defence to Fiji. Additionally, under the General Scholarship Scheme of ICCR, 29 scholarships were offered to Fiji for 2015-16.

International Day for Yoga was celebrated by the High Commission in Fiji on 21 June 2015, whereas Constitution Day of India was celebrated at Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Suva on 26 November 2015.

Papua New Guinea

H. E. Mr. Peter O' Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG) visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015. During his visit, a bilateral meeting was held between Hon'ble Prime Minister and PNG PM on the side-lines of the Summit in Jaipur where various bilateral issues viz. trade, defence, climate change, health, etc. were discussed for furthering relations between India and PNG.

Cook Islands

Hon. Mr. Nandi Glassie, Minister of Health, Justice and Parliamentary Services visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

Nauru

H.E. Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, MP, President of Nauru visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015. A bilateral meeting between President of Nauru and Indian Prime Minister was also held on the side-lines of the Summit in Jaipur where Nauru President expressed appreciation for India's financial assistance in building sea-wall to combat rising sea levels.

Assistance under Grant-in-Aid amounting to (i) US\$ 260,421/ to convert 7 rooms into self-contained units at the Menen Hotel in May 2015, and (ii) US\$ 450,175/- for Construction of Sea Wall in August 2015, was given to Nauru Government by the Government of India.

Kiribati

Her Excellency, Amb. Teekoa Iuta, (Ambassador in Taiwan), visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015 as Special Envoy of Kiribati President.

Tonga

H.E. Mr. Semisi Tauelangi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, and Forests & Fisheries visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015. High Commissioner Shri A Gitesh Sarma attended the coronation of King Tupou VI, held on 4 July 2015 in Tonga. Assistance under

Grant-in-Aid amounting to (i) US\$ 1,15,000/- (equivalent to TOP\$ 200,000/- to Upgrade the Office of the Public Service Commission ICT Infrastructure, and (ii) US\$ 71,627/- for project titled 'Spectrum Monitoring Including Detection of Interference and Illegal Transmission', was given to Tongan Government in September 2015.

Tuvalu

Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, OBE, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

Vanuatu

Hon. Sato Kilman, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

A bilateral meeting was also held between Prime Ministers of Vanuatu & India on the side-lines of the Summit in Jaipur where Vanuatu Prime Minister thanked India for cash assistance of US\$ 2,50,000/- in wake of cyclone Pam. Both Prime Ministers also discussed various issues including capacity building, climate change, etc.

Samoa

H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Samoan Prime Minister visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 20 June 2015 in Samoa by the High Commission of India in Wellington in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Samoa.

Niue

H.E. Mr. Toke Talagi, Premier of Niue visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

Palau

H.E. Mr. Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.



Prime Minister meeting with Prime Minister of Vanuatu on the sidelines of 2nd Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit in Jaipur (21 August, 2015)



Family Photograph during FIPIC Summit in Jaipur (21 August, 2015)

Micronesia

Hon. Yosiwo Palikkun George, Vice President of Federated States of Micronesia visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

Marshall Islands

H.E Mr. Christopher J. Loek, President of Marshall Islands visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

Solomon Islands

Hon. Mr. Douglas Este, Deputy Prime Minister, visited India to attend the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)

The 2nd Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was held in Jaipur on 21 August 2015. The 2nd Summit of Forum for India - Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was held on 21 August 2015 in Jaipur. Three Heads of States from Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau; Vice President from Micronesia; six Heads of Governments from Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; and Deputy Prime Minister/Ministers/Special Envoy from Solomon Islands, Tonga, Cook Islands and Kiribati participated in the Summit. A list of Leaders of Delegations is enclosed at Annexure A.

In his welcome remarks, PM said that India and Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are setting an example of partnerships for this century, which is forged by shared aspirations and challenges and which is shaped by the belief that all nations, small and large, have equal stakes in the world. PM added that there is huge potential for India-Pacific Islands cooperation in areas of energy, marine resources, new medicines and food security.

PM, in his concluding remarks stressed on urgent reforms of UN and said that we should quickly adopt the draft presented by the President of the General Assembly as the negotiating text and conclude negotiations during the upcoming 70th Session of the General Assembly and made several announcements made several announcements to the Pacific

Islands countries in various fields such as establishment of an Institute for Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research in the region and a network of marine biology research stations in various Island nations, setting up of Space Technology Application Centre and IT lab, goodwill visits by Indian Navy to Pacific Islands, capacity building in various fields like IT, Solar energy, health, education, climate change, increase in ITEC slots etc.

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, co-chaired the 13th ASEAN-India Summit at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 November 2015. At the Summit, Prime Minister reiterated India's support for ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture and called for cooperation in counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber-security and humanitarian and disaster relief. Underlining the importance of expanding connectivity between the two regions in all its dimensions and unleashing the potential of the ASEAN-India economic partnership, he announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN; the intention to create a Project Development Fund to develop manufacturing hubs in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam; augmentation of the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund from the existing US\$ 1 million to US\$ 5 million; setting up of an ASEAN-India Innovation Platform to facilitate commercialisation of low cost technologies, cooperation in capacity building in renewable energy, including solar technology, and also offered the services of India's indigenously developed GPS Aided Geo-Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) to ASEAN member states.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh, participated in the 13th ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 5 August 2015 which adopted the ASEAN-India Plan of Action for the period 2016-20, identifying concrete initiatives and areas of cooperation along the politico-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars. The ASEAN-India Agreements on Trade in Services and Investment also entered into force on 1 July 2015, completing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area. Earlier, in April 2015, in recognition of the priority that India accords to its partnership with ASEAN, it opened a permanent mission to ASEAN and the East Asia Summit in Jakarta.



Prime Minister in a group photograph during the 13th ASEAN-India Summit in Kuala Lumpur (21 November, 2015)



Prime Minister in a group photograph during the 10th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur (22 November, 2015)

The Secretary General of ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, paid an official visit to India from 9-14 December 2015, during which he held bilateral consultations with EAM. He was also conferred the first ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award 2015.

India continued to provide project-based financial assistance and capacity building to ASEAN countries, especially to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam, contributing to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration by narrowing the intra-ASEAN development gap. These projects were financed through the ASEAN-India Fund (US\$ 50 million), ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund (US\$ 1 million) and the ASEAN-India Green Fund (US\$ 5 million). The implementation of the largest project under the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership involving the setting up of a Tracking, Telemetry and Data Reception Station and Processing Facility for ASEAN in Vietnam, upgrading of an existing centre at Biak, Indonesia, and training of ASEAN personnel in space science technology at the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, Dehradun, by ISRO has commenced.

Special emphasis was laid on highlighting and buttressing the two millennia old civilizational links between India and South East Asia. With a view to documenting these historical and cultural links, the 1st ASEAN-India Conference on Cultural Linkages was held in New Delhi on 23 July 2015. A number of people-to-people exchange programmes were also undertaken, including the visit of 206 students from ASEAN countries to India from September to November 2015. The Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi conducted a training programme for ASEAN diplomats from 16 November-12 December 2015. 30 high school students from ASEAN countries also took part in the National Childrens Science Congress from 27-31 December 2015.

To foster greater exchanges between the academic communities of both sides, the 4th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7 & 8 August 2015. The eighth edition of the Delhi Dialogue, the premier annual Track 1.5 dialogue platform for brainstorming on all aspects of the ASEAN-India strategic partnership, took place from 17-19 February 2016 in New Delhi on the theme “ASEAN-India Relations: A New Paradigm.” It comprised of a Ministerial, Business and

Academic session, with participants from ASEAN countries as well as the North East.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, participated in the 10th East Asia Summit on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. He shared India’s perspectives on regional and global issues such as terrorism, maritime security, etc. with his counterparts, while reiterating India’s support for strengthening of the East Asia Summit on its 10th anniversary as the premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue on strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern in the Asia-Pacific. This was preceded by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh, attending the 5th EAS Foreign Ministers Meeting on 6 August 2015 at Kuala Lumpur.

India continued to participate actively in EAS activities in 2015 by co-hosting the 4th EAS Workshop on the Regional Security Architecture along with Cambodia in Phnom Penh in July 2015. To further the development agenda under the EAS, India organized an “EAS Roundtable on Nursing and Trauma Care” at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi on 15 & 16 October 2015 and an “EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation” at the ASEAN-India Centre on 8 & 9 November 2015.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh, attended the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting, hosted by Luxembourg and chaired by the European Union, on 5 & 6 November 2015. India was an active participant and contributor in ASEM events in the course of the year and hosted the 19th Summer University Project on ‘Sustainable Urbanization in Heritage Cities’ in Pune, in association with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), from 9-21 August 2015; the 11th Meeting of ASEM Directors General/ Commissioners of Customs in Goa on 8 & 9 October 2015; and the 2nd ASEM Roundtable on Green Buildings in Gandhinagar on 20 November 2015, to take forward tangible areas of cooperation.

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

India co-chaired along with Lao PDR, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials Meeting on 3 August 2015 in



Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. Retd. V.K. Singh addressing at the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luxembourg (05 November, 2015)

Kuala Lumpur, which discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation in the four traditional areas of tourism, culture, education, transport & connectivity as well as progress collaboration in newer areas such as Small and Medium Enterprises, health, agriculture, etc. Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) for which India has committed US\$ 1 million annually and which offer funding of upto US\$ 50,000 for micro projects with direct social impact, also took off during the year. 5 QIPs are currently under implementation in Cambodia.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

A Ministerial delegation from India attended the inter-sessional RCEP Meeting on 13 July 2015 and 3rd RCEP Ministerial Meeting on 24 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, during which breakthroughs were achieved, following which substantive and text-based negotiations on trade in goods, services and investment have intensified. PM witnessed the adoption of a Joint Statement on the RCEP in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015, calling upon parties to conclude the negotiations by 2016.



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Diplomatic relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) were established in December 1973. At present, India and DPRK share a cordial relationship.

Foreign Minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mr. Ri Su Yong, visited India from 12-14 April 2015. This was the first visit at Foreign Minister level from DPRK to India. During the visit DPRK Foreign Minister called on Vice-President Hamid Ansari. Foreign Minister Ri held talks with Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs (EAM) in a frank and friendly atmosphere where issues of mutual interest including India's security concerns came up for discussion. EAM conveyed to her counterpart the significance of peace and stability in the Korean peninsula for India's Act East Policy. Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong

expressed his country's appreciation for the humanitarian assistance provided by India to DPRK and in this regard sought additional assistance. EAM agreed to positively consider DPRK's request.

India extended human resource development assistance to DPRK. India continued to allocate ITEC slots to DPRK nationals to assist its capacity building efforts, offering 15 slots for the year 2015-16. The Indian Mission commemorated the Golden Jubilee of the ITEC Programme in DPRK on 27 March 2015. ITEC Day was organized on 15 September 2015 by Mission to conclude ITEC Golden Jubilee celebrations.

DPRK and India support expressed support for each other at various multilateral fora.

Japan

The mechanism of 'Annual Summits' since 2006 has led to a qualitative shift in India-Japan relations. The momentum



PM Abe and PM Modi at the signing of the agreements

generated by the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in August - September 2014 was carried forward with great zeal this year, making India's special, strategic and global partnership with Japan one of its most important relationships. The two Prime Ministers have met several times on the sidelines of various international fora, which convey the strong commitment of leaderships of both the countries. The partnership has over time been given significant form and substance, both in breadth and depth, with political, defence and security cooperation; comprehensive economic partnership; science and technology; people to people contacts; and cooperation on multi-lateral and regional issues forming the pillars of a strong relationship between India and Japan.

The '2+2' meeting of Foreign and Defence Secretaries from both sides was held in April 2015. Bilateral consultations between Foreign Secretary and Vice Foreign Minister were held in June, October, December 2015 and in January 2016. The inaugural India-Japan-US Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue was held in September 2015 while the inaugural India-Japan-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held in June 2015. The second India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue and the fourth India-Japan Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in November 2015. Japan participated in the Indo-US Malabar naval exercise in October 2015 while the Indian Navy (IN) participated in the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) Fleet Review. Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra (in 2015) and Haryana (January 2016) also visited Japan to promote trade and investment between these states and Japanese prefectures. "Japan Plus", the special management team to facilitate Japanese investment proposals was made operational. The inter-ministerial "Core Group" under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary held three meetings in the last one year to monitor the progress of the 'India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership'.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe for the 10th annual summit from 11-13 December 2015. Hon'ble EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on Prime Minister Abe and the latter called on the Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Both Prime Ministers jointly met the participants of the Japan-India Innovation Seminar and accepted the report of the India Japan Business Leaders' Forum-2015. The two Prime Ministers had delegation level talks at Hyderabad House.

The two leaders also jointly visited Varanasi to witness the historic 'Ganga Aarti' on the banks of river Ganges and to review progress on the Varanasi-Kyoto Sister City Partnership.

The 'Joint Statement on India and Japan Vision 2025: Special Strategic and Global Partnership Working Together for Peace and Prosperity of the Indo-Pacific Region and the World' was signed by the two Prime Ministers and 'Fact Sheet: India and Japan, Working Together for Peace and Prosperity' was also issued. The visit built upon the substantive outcomes realized previously by moving forward towards a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership. The conclusion of negotiations on the agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation was announced, which would be signed following the completion of necessary internal procedures. The two sides further strengthened their economic partnership, with the expectation that Japanese ODA yen loan to India for the FY 2015 will reach a historic high of 400 billion yen, to projects ranging from urban metro rails, dedicated freight corridor and improving road networks, to industrial townships. In the defence sector, it was decided to go ahead with equipment and technology cooperation with joint research on potential avenues for co-production and co-development. Two defence related agreements were signed which laid a strong foundation for this cooperation. In order to promote people to people exchanges, India announced Visa on Arrival facility for Japanese visitors from March 2016 and the Japanese Prime Minister expressed that as many as 10,000 Indian youth would visit Japan under such frameworks as student exchange, IT training and other short term exchanges over the next five years. The shared vision for peace and stability is exemplified in the strong condemnation of terrorism as well as the recognition of the Indo-Pacific as a region indispensable to their national security. Japanese support for India's membership to APEC as well as the international export control regimes indicate Japan's deep commitment to cooperate with India on regional and multi-lateral issues.

The following agreements were signed during the visit of Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe to India: (a) Memorandum concerning the Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Civil Nuclear Energy; (b) MoC on High Speed Railways; (c) Agreement concerning transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation; (d) Agreement concerning security measures for the protection of classified military

information; (e) Agreement on Amendment Protocol of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement; (f) MoC between Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Technology (MLIT) of Japan on Technological Cooperation in Rail Sector; (g) MOU on technological cooperation between Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO) of the Republic of India and Japan Railway Technical Research Institute (JRTRI) of Japan; (h) Letter of Intent on the Strategic International Cooperative Program between Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the Japan Science and Technology Agency of Japan; (i) Letter of Intent toward establishing a young researcher's exchange program between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the Japan Society for the promotion of Science; (j) MoC between Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Republic of India and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan on Medical Products Regulation Dialogue and Cooperation Framework; (k) MoC in the field of Education between Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan; (l) MoC in the field of forests and forestry between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Republic of India and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan; (m) Statement of Intent between NITI Aayog, Republic of India and Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ); (n) MOU on cooperation between State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Toyama Prefecture; (o) MOU between State Government of Kerala and Lake Nakaumi, Lake Shinji & Mt. Daisen area Mayors Association; and (p) MOU between Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS).

The eighth India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held in Tokyo on 12 January 2016 co-chaired by Minister of State (I/C) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy Shri Piyush Goyal and Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industries, Mr. Motoo Hayashi. On the side-lines of the Dialogue, six Working Group meetings dealing with power generation, energy efficiency, coal, new & renewable energy, petroleum & natural gas and energy storage technologies were also held with the active participation of representatives from Indian and Japanese private sector.

Mongolia

First-ever visit of Prime Minister to Mongolia took place on 16-18 May 2015. 2015 was the year in which two countries celebrated 60 years of establishment of their diplomatic relations and also 25th year of Mongolian democracy. The relationship was declared upgraded from 'comprehensive partnership' to 'strategic partnership' and 14 documents were signed during the visit, including the Joint Statement. In recognition of deep civilizational linkages through Buddhism, Prime Minister gifted a sapling of the sacred Bodhi Tree at Bodh Gaya to the Gandan monastery in Ulaanbaatar.

PM addressed the Mongolian Parliament which was convened on a weekend as a special gesture from the Parliament. The discussions covered a range of areas of cooperation, including defence and security, economy, culture and people-to-people contacts. India agreed to extend a credit line of USD 1 billion to Mongolia for supporting its capacity building and this was welcomed as a significant boost for the Mongolian economy. PM gifted a Bhabatron-II cancer therapy machine and laid foundation stone for Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Excellence for IT, Communication and Outsourcing in Ulaanbaatar using an earlier sanctioned US\$ 20 million credit line. PM attended traditional Nadam festival and separately addressed a large gathering of over 6000 people, both Mongolian and Indian nationals. Yoga enthusiasts from the Art of Living group exhibited their skills and performed traditional dances.

Col. (Retd) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, MOS (I&B) represented India in the celebration of 25th anniversary of democracy of Mongolia on 29-30 July 2015. DG level talks between BSF and GABP of Mongolia took place in Ulaanbaatar on 20 August 2015. Seventh meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence headed by JS (PIC), MOD from the Indian side, took place in Ulaanbaatar on 20 August 2015. Acting Chairperson of NHRC of India Justice Cyriac Joseph headed our delegation to the 20th Annual & Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs in Ulaanbaatar from 26-28 August 2015. Mr S. Bayartsogt, Minister and Chief of Cabinet Secretariat, Abbot of Gandan Monastery, other senior officials and monks attended the conference "Global Hindu Buddhist Initiative for Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness" by



Prime Minister inspecting the guard of honour in Ulaanbaatar (17 May, 2015)



Prime Minister at the official Welcoming Ceremony in his honour, at the President's Official Residence, Cheong Wa Dae, in Seoul, South Korea (18 May, 2015)

Vivekananda International Foundation in New Delhi from 3-5 September 2015. Prime Minister joined the conference in New Delhi and a special prayer visit to Bodh Gaya.

Republic of Korea

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (PM) visited ROK from 18-19 May 2015. The India- RoK relationship was elevated to the level of 'Special Strategic Partnership' during the State Visit of PM to ROK from 18-19 May 2015.

During the visit, PM held a summit level meeting with Korean President Mme. Park Geun-hye (PGH) and also addressed the inaugural session of the India-Korea CEOs Forum with PGH. Prime Minister delivered an address at the Asian Leadership Conference. Heads of top conglomerates of Korea also called on PM on a one-to-one basis. The visit ended with a visit to the Hyundai Heavy Industries ship-building plant in Ulsan. In the defence and security fields, initiatives such as establishment of a defence and foreign affairs '2+2' Dialogue, staff level talks between the navies and regular exchanges of visits between the two armed forces were announced. On the economic front, Joint Working Groups were set up in the areas such as Ship-building and Economic Hardware manufacturing to discuss cooperation. It was decided that the two sides would commence negotiations on amending the India-ROK CEPA. Ministry of Strategy and Finance and the Export-Import Bank of Korea expressed their intention to provide US\$10 billion for mutual cooperation in infrastructure, comprising Economic Development Cooperation Fund (US\$ 1 billion) and export credits (US\$ 9 billion) for priority sectors, including smart cities, railways, power generation and transmission, and other sectors to be agreed. The two governments and the EXIM Banks of the two countries will hold consultations to chalk out a roadmap in order to materialize the envisioned financial support for priority sectors. Seven documents were signed including: Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement and MoUs in the fields of Youth Affairs, Maritime Transport and Logistics, Cooperation between National Security Councils, Electric Power Development and New Energy Industries and a Framework of Cooperation in the Road Transport and Highways sector.

Mr. Chung Ui-Hwa, Speaker of Korean National Assembly led a parliamentary delegation to India from 07-10 May

2015. During the visit, he met with Speaker of Lok Sabha, and called on Hon'ble Prime Minister. Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister for Human Resource Development visited Korea from 18-22 May 2015 for World Education Forum. Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways visited ROK from 9-12 September 2015 to participate in the ASEM Symposium on Transport and Logistics Network. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science & Technology visited ROK to co-chair the India-ROK S&T Steering Committee meeting on 6 November 2015. Additionally, Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal, and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited in September and October 2015 respectively.

Bilateral relations are anchored on strong economic cooperation. Trade in 2014-15 (April-February, Provisional over corresponding period last year) is at US\$ 16.65 bn. The total FDI equity inflows from Korea (between April 2000 and July 2014) has been US\$ 1.47 billion and it ranks 13th with a share of 0.64% of total FDI received by India (as per data maintained at DIPP). Major Korean conglomerates (Chaebols) such as Samsung, Hyundai Motors and LG have made significant investments into India, Indian investments in ROK are also increasing.

With a view to quantitative and qualitative enhancement of trade, areas of mutual strength and synergy such as Shipping and Electronic Hardware manufacturing are being identified for India-ROK cooperation. Separately, an updated India-ROK Bilateral Air Services Agreement was signed in October 2015 in New Delhi, increasing the number of flight connection between India and ROK to 19 per week.

In recent years efforts are being made to scale up bilateral Security and Defence ties. Raksha Mantri paid an official visit to ROK from 15-18 April 2015. The first round of consultations between the National Security Secretariats of India and Republic of Korea were held at the level of Deputy National Security Advisors on 23 March 2015. Navy vessel INS Sahyadri visited ROK in October 2015, and Coast Guard Vessel ICGS Sarang visited in August 2015.

"Sarang", Festival of India was organized in Korea from 9-15 November 2015. The weeklong festival featuring dance, music, food and film was held in Seoul, Busan and Chuncheon cities in cooperation with Ministry of Culture. Additionally, Indian Film Festivals were organized in Seoul, Busan and other Korean cities.

India Korea Business Summit was organized by Chosun Ilbo, the largest media business group in South Korea, and CII on 14-15 January 2016 in Delhi. Business leaders from the leading Korean companies like Hyundai Group, Samsung Electronics, Doosan Group, Lotte Group, LG Group and Korea Electric Power Corporation along with Mr. Jeong Kab Yoon, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly with four National Assembly members, Vice Minister at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Mayor of Daegu Metropolitan City and President of Chosun Ilbo travelled to India for the Summit. While South Korean businesses

have invested in India across sectors from automobiles to consumer products for the past two decades, the Business Summit for the first time has brought leading Korean businesses in India together as a group. The Summit gave push to 'Make in India' initiative by bringing together Indian skills and South Korea's manufacturing capabilities.

To mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated in the Embassy on 9 January 2016.



Russian Federation

With both countries determined to work together to implement the vision document 'Druzhba-Dosti' adopted during the visit of Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin in December 2014, the 'special and privileged strategic partnership' between India and Russia scaled qualitatively new levels in the year 2015-16. There were extensive high-level interactions, including three visits at the Head of State/ Head of Government level, and significant progress on various aspects of the bilateral agenda.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee participated in the 70th anniversary commemoration of victory in the World War II in May 2015. An Indian Army contingent also participated in the commemorative military parade during the occasion. During the visit, our President met President of Russia Mr Vladimir Putin and inaugurated the year of Indian culture 'Namaste Russia.' Eight MoUs were concluded during the visit between Indian and Russian Universities/Institutes, including a declaration on Association of Indian and Russian Universities.



Prime Minister with Russian President during his visit to Russia

In July 2015, Russia as the chair of the BRICS hosted the 7th BRICS Summit in Ufa. Prime Minister participated in the Summit meetings of BRICS and addressed the Plenary Session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). On the sidelines, Prime Minister and the Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin held a bilateral meeting to take stock of progress in the India-Russia relations since the Annual Summit in December 2014 in New Delhi.

The high point of the year was the extremely successful visit by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Russia from December 23-24, 2015 for the 16th Annual India-Russia Summit with President of Russia Mr Vladimir Putin. Prime Minister also addressed a gathering of 'Friends of India' and the Indian community in Russia. 17 Agreements and MOUs in diverse fields were signed during the Summit, significant among these included an Inter-Governmental Agreement on Helicopter Engineering, which would provide the framework for developing the first major 'Make in India' project in the defence sector as well as a Plan of Action on Localisation between Department of Atomic Energy and ROSATOM in the nuclear energy sector as well as MOUs on Solar Energy and Railways.

Reflecting the shared priority of both countries to further enhance trade and economic linkages, the two leaders also addressed a meeting of the India-Russia CEOs Forum which was attended by senior business representatives from both countries. Several major investments were announced including the purchase of a 15% stake by ONGC Videsh Limited in Rosneft's Vankorneft, Russia's second largest oilfield, as well as large private sector investments. The Summit also noted progress in customs facilitation for trade between the two countries by setting up a 'Green Corridor' arrangement, initiatives to promote direct trade in diamonds, including creation of the Special Notified Zone at the Bharat Diamond Bourse as well as progress on market access for agricultural and processed food products.

Russia reiterated its support for India's permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council as a deserving and strong candidate. Russia also underlined its continued support for India joining the multilateral export control regimes as well as organisations such as SCO and APEC. The two countries also emphasized their strong cooperation in countering international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Other high level visits during the year included those of External Affairs Minister to Moscow on 20 October 2015 for the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation and by Raksha Mantri in November 2015 for the IGC on Military-Technical Cooperation. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Dmitry Rogozin visited New Delhi on 8 December and called on Prime Minister and met National Security Advisor (NSA). NSA visited Russia in May 2015 for the BRICS Security Advisors Meeting, during which he held a bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart. Deputy NSA participated in the 6th International meeting of Security Representatives in Ulaan Ude in June 2015. Russian Interior Minister Mr. Vladimir Kolokoltsev visited India in September 2015 and met Home Minister. Law and Justice Minister and Chief Justice of India took part in the St. Petersburg International Legal Forum from 27-29 May, 2015. Solicitor General of India participated in the 7th Regional Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in Sochi. Director CBI and Chief Vigilance Commissioner took part in the 8th Annual Conference & General Meeting of International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities in St. Petersburg in October -November 2015.

Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Moscow in October 2015 and held Foreign Office Consultations with Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Titov and Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov. In addition, Joint Secretary-level consultations were held on Central Asia; disarmament and non-proliferation; South Asia; counter-terrorism; consular matters, diplomatic properties. Secretary-level consultations on UN matters were held in New Delhi in September 2015.

Interactions on defence cooperation were intense and productive. The bilateral High level Monitoring Committee (HLMC) led by Defence Secretary met in Moscow on 29 June 2015 to review defence cooperation projects. Chief of the Army Staff visited Moscow and St. Petersburg in September 2015. Secretary, Defence Production led a four member delegation to the MAKS-2015 Airshow in Moscow in August 2015. The joint India-Russia military exercise "India-2015" in Rajasthan (November) and joint India-Russia naval exercise "Indra-navy" in Bay of Bengal (December) were also conducted in 2015.

Civil nuclear cooperation witnessed significant progress. Secretary (DAE) visited Moscow in June 2015 following the meetings of the three Joint Working Groups on science & technology, nuclear power and nuclear fuel cycle respectively in April and May 2015, and held discussions with CEO of Rosatom on enhancing bilateral cooperation in this sector. An agreement on localization in India of nuclear equipment was concluded during the Annual Summit on 24 December 2015.

On cooperation in space, the year 2015 marked the 40th anniversary of the launch of India's first satellite "Aryabhata" on a Russian (then USSR), launch vehicle "Soyuz". ISRO and Roscosmos signed an MoU on expansion of cooperation in the field of exploration and use of outer-space for peaceful purposes in June 2015. An agreement was signed between C-DAC and Glonass for cooperation in technologies based on satellite navigation.

Science and Technology interactions continued. In May 2015, an agreement was signed between Department of Science and Technology and Russian Science Foundation for Basic and Exploratory Research. During the 16th Annual Summit, C-DAC, IISc (Bangalore) and Moscow State University signed an agreement on cooperation in high performance computing.

Minister of State for Commerce & Industry led a business delegation to the 19th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in June 2015. Finance Minister visited Moscow and Ufa in July 2015 for BRICS meetings. In June 2015, a joint Study Group was established to conduct on the feasibility of a CECA/FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union. India participated in the Industrial trade Fair 'INNOPROM 2015' at Yekaterinburg and would be the partner country in 'INNOPROM 2016'.

Belarus

Bilateral relations with Belarus attained a qualitatively higher dimension with the first ever visit of President Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Minsk from 2-4 June 2015. A number of agreements for cooperation in broadcasting, standardization, textiles, financial securities as well as a Roadmap for India-Belarus cooperation were signed during the visit. President and the President of Belarus Mr Alexander Lukashenko jointly addressed a India-Belarus Business Forum, which was also attended by a business delegation from India. Several commercial agreements and MoUs were signed between companies at the event. India's decision to grant Market Economy Status to Belarus and a US\$ 100 million Line of Credit were also announced during the visit. Rashtrapatiiji



President at the luncheon Banquet hosted by Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus at the Place of Independence, Minsk during his state visit to Republic of Belarus (3 June, 2015)

inaugurated a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the campus of the Belarus State University. The Grodno Power project completed by BHEL was jointly inaugurated by Presidents of both countries.

Belarusian Foreign Minister Mr. Vladimir Makei visited India in April 2015. He met EAM and called on the President. The 7th India -Belarus Military Technical Commission (MTC) meeting was held in Minsk on 21-22 May 2015. The two sides reviewed ongoing cooperation and discussed new areas of cooperation in the field of military technology. Minister of State (I/C) for Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Minsk from 6-7 September 2015 to co-chair the 7th Meeting of India-Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation in Minsk. MOS also called on Belarusian President Mr. Alexander Lukashenko and held bilateral meetings with her counterpart and Chairman of the Belarusian-part of the Commission, Minister of Industry Mr. Vitaly Vovk and Chairman of the Council of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Mikhail Myasnikovich.

A 3-member Indian Fertilizer Delegation led by Shri Anuj Kumar Bishnoi, Secretary, Department of Fertilisers (DoF) visited to Minsk during 29 October- 2 November 2015 to hold discussions for expanding cooperation in the Potash Sector with Belarus. Business conferences, Buyers-Sellers Meet and other trade events as well as cultural performances were held throughout the year.

Ukraine

Defence cooperation continued to make progress. A delegation from the Ministry of Defence visited Ukraine in April 2015 to discuss naval cooperation. A high-level delegation consisting of representatives from Ministry of Defence, BHEL and Magazon Docks visited Ukraine in December 2015 and to discuss cooperation with Zorya Plant in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. A delegation from M/s Larsen & Toubro (L&T) visited Ukraine in June-July for technical talks for manufacturing of gas turbines. In another significant development, the final batch of 5 Antonov AN-32 tactical transport planes were upgraded in Ukraine and sent to India in November.

On the cultural side, a week-long Festival of India showcasing Indian classical dance, cuisine, reading of folktales and

screening films and documentaries was held in Lviv in March and Kyiv in April 2015. Adamas University, Kolkata entered into an agreement of cooperation with Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv on 24 November 2015.

Number of applications for ITEC scholarship saw a significant increase. 10 slots are allocated to Ukraine. The Indian Embassy building was renovated and a full-fledged auditorium was set up where classes for Indian classical dances and teaching Hindi are being run regularly. Various cultural programmes have been held during the year.

Armenia

The Union Cabinet approved signing and ratification of an inter-governmental agreement with Armenia on cooperation in the field of Agriculture. This is expected to be signed during the proposed visit of the Armenian Minister of Agriculture in February-March 2016. Two bilateral agreements in the field of education have been finalized and are expected to be signed during the visit of Armenian Minister of Higher Education & Science to India, which is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2016.

GOI funded 'Telemedicine' project has been successfully executed by CDAC in Armenia. Over 10 different delegations covering business, pharmaceuticals, Engineering & ICT, education & culture and other sectors were exchanged during the year, including a 15 member business delegation from Tamil Nadu organized by FICCI Tamil Nadu Chapter jointly with Armenian Investment Foundation to Yerevan (28-30 November); seven member Armenian delegation to India from 8-10 October 2015 to participate in the Healthcare Summit in Delhi; and a 15-member Armenian delegation from the Ministry of Healthcare that participated in "IPHEX-2015 hosted by Pharmexcil on 13-15 May 2015 in Mumbai.

Hindi continues to be taught at the Yerevan State Linguistic University and 'Vishwa Hindi Day - 2015' was celebrated (May 2015). 'Gandhi Foundation in Armenia' was launched in Yerevan with the support of the Ministry of Education of Armenia and Yerevan State University. "Days of Indian Culture" were organized from 31 August - 6 September 2015 in Yerevan by a couple of local friendship and Indian culture promotion groups, and supported by the Indian Embassy. 'Gandhi Foundation in Armenia' has been launched in Yerevan with the support by the Ministry of Education and Yerevan State University.

E-Tourist Visa facility for Armenian nationals was introduced in August 2015. 15 ITEC slots and two ICCR scholarship slots are allotted to Armenia.

During April-November 2015, bilateral trade turnover declined, as compared to previous years. Trade figures stood at US\$ 16.6 million with the trade balance in favour of India.

Azerbaijan

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley accompanied by a delegation including the then Finance Secretary visited Baku on 4-5 May 2015 to attend 48th Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

A delegation of India Tourism Office, Frankfurt and tour operators from India participated in the 14th Azerbaijan International Travel and Tourism (AITF) held in Baku on 2-4 April 2015. A delegation of Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) comprising of 28 Indian companies participated in the “BakuBuild-2015” exhibition (21-24 October 2015).

Ten Azerbaijani nationals participated in training courses in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs. One Azerbaijani student is pursuing a long-term course in Hindi language in Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra.

The Embassy of India represented India at ‘Tea Culture of Countries’ exhibition organized by Azerbaijan International Cuisine Centre (20 October 2015), II International Rice Festival (11 December 2015), the 5th International Festival” organized by the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) (20 November 2015) and ‘International Day’ organised at Azerbaijan University of Oil and Industry (19 December 2015).

In 2014, India’s bilateral trade with Azerbaijan amounted to around US\$ 815 million including India’s exports at US\$ 37 million and Azerbaijan’s exports at US\$ 778 million.

Georgia

A Georgian delegation led by Ms. Tamar Zhvania, Chairperson, Central Election Commission of Georgia visited India in July 2015. The delegation held meetings with Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commission of India and signed a MoU on 13 July 2015 on cooperation between the Election Commissions of both countries.

The year witnessed an exchange of delegations covering various sectors of interest. Shri Dinesh Sharma, Addl. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs accompanied by Director [ITP], MEA participated in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [AIIB] founding members meeting in Tbilisi on 24-25 August 2015. “Days of Indian Culture” was organized by the Embassy in Tbilisi (20-22 November 2015), including a live concert by “Bharat Folk Dance Academy” sponsored by ICCR, screening of 3 Indian films and Photo Exhibition on the State of Jammu & Kashmir. 15 ITEC slots are allotted to Georgians. E-Tourist Visa facility for Georgian nationals was introduced in 2015. One member delegation from a Georgian private pharmaceutical company participated in “IPHEX-2015” held on 13-15 May 2015 in Mumbai. A 3 member Georgian delegation participated in the World Judiciary Summit from 7-13 October 2015 held in Lucknow.

The bilateral trade stood at US\$ 43.8 million, with the balance of trade in favour of India.

Central Asia

Kazakhstan

India’s traditionally strong and friendly relations with Kazakhstan gained significant momentum during the year. The highlight of the diplomatic engagement was the successful visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Kazakhstan from 7-8 July 2015.

PM held substantive and constructive discussions with President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Mr. Karim Massimov. PM delivered a well-received address on India’s relations with Central Asia at the prestigious Nazarbayev University in Astana. PM also inaugurated the GOI-funded India-Kazakhstan Center of Excellence in Information & Communication Technologies at the Eurasian National University. A joint statement “Tej Kadam” was issued on the conclusion of the visit. Five inter-governmental agreements/MoUs were signed, including a new Agreement on Defence and Military Technical Cooperation, an Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons and a fresh Contract for Purchase of Natural Uranium from Kazakhstan to meet India’s energy security requirements. In addition, the PM and the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan jointly addressed a business event. A high-level business delegation from India took part in the event and five B2B agreements/MoUs

were announced. The two Prime Ministers also formally inaugurated the drilling of the first exploratory well by the ONGC Videsh Limited and KazMunaiGas joint venture in the Satpayev offshore block in the Caspian Sea during the business meeting.

Several high-level interactions had preceded PM's visit. Mr. Askar Mamin, President, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (Kazakh Railways) held visited India on 9-11 June 2015, during which he met Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways and Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping and discussed cooperation in transport sector. Mr. Asset Issekeshov, Minister of Investments and Development, Republic of Kazakhstan led an official-cum-business delegation to India on 15-17 June 2015, met Minister of State (I/C) of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Minister of Telecom & Information Technology and Minister of Steel & Mines.

The 12th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 16 & 17 June 2015. Mr. Vladimir Shkolnik, Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan led the 32 member Kazakh delegation. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State

(I/C) of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Mr. Shkolnik also met Minister for Power and Renewable Energy.

Kazakhstan utilized 25 ITEC slots and 4 scholarships under the ICCR General Scholarship Scheme during April-December 2015.

Kyrgyz Republic

India's friendly and wide-ranging relations with the Kyrgyz Republic received a major impetus with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Kyrgyzstan from 11-12 July 2015. This was the first PM-level visit from India to the Kyrgyz Republic in two decades. PM held extremely productive bilateral meetings with the Kyrgyz President Mr. Almazbek Atambayev, Speaker Mr. Asylbek Jeenbekov and Prime Minister Mr. Temir Sariyev. During the visit, PM gifted medical equipment to the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic, inaugurated tele-medicine links between the hospitals in Kyrgyzstan with super specialty hospitals in India and unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Bishkek. Four MoUs/Agreements in the field of Defence Cooperation, Culture, Election and Standardization were signed. A joint statement envisaging the expansion of bilateral cooperation



Prime Minister arrives in Astana for his official visit to Kazakhstan. Prime Minister was given a traditional welcome on his arrival in the hotel (7 July, 2015)

in a range of sectors was issued during the visit.

EAM met with her Kyrgyz counterpart Erlan Abdyldaev on the sidelines of Heart of Asia Conference held in Islamabad on 09 December 2015.

As a follow-up to PM's visit, a Round-Table on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture was organized in Bishkek on 15 July 2015. Secretary, Agriculture led the Indian delegation. Kyrgyz Minister for Agriculture led the Kyrgyz side. Avantha Group, a participant in the First Round Table on the Agriculture Cooperation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Agrarian Platform under Chingiz Aitmatov Foundation for exploring opportunities for cooperation.

A Defence Delegation, comprising 17 officers from Army War College led by a Brigadier, visited Kyrgyzstan from 11-16 October 2015 for a six-day familiarization tour.

Indo-Kyrgyz trade was US\$ 38.53 million in 2014-15. India's exports to Kyrgyzstan were US\$ 37.76 million whereas Kyrgyz exports to India were US\$ 0.77 million. The total trade increased in 2014-15 as compared to 2013-14.

Tajikistan

India's close strategic partnership with Tajikistan was elevated to a higher plane with the successful visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Tajikistan from 12-13 July 2015 and his meetings with Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan. During the visit, the two sides decided to step up cooperation in the spheres of trade and economic ties, defence and connectivity. Both countries also reiterated their common resolve to expand and strengthen their fight against terrorism in the shared region. PM visited the India-Tajikistan Friendship Hospital in Qurqon Teppa and interacted with the patients. PM also unveiled a bust of Rabindranath Tagore along with the Tajik President. During the visit, the two sides signed a Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the period 2016-18. An MOU for setting up of computer labs in 37 schools of Tajikistan was also signed.

Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan visited India from 12-15 May 2015. During the visit, he met EAM, RM and NSA. A new Programme of Cooperation for 2015-2017 was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan.

An international seminar on "Indic Studies in Tajikistan" was held in Dushanbe on 21 & 22 December 2015. The seminar was jointly organized by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation, New Delhi and Tajikistan National University, Dushanbe.

A delegation from National Defence College (NDC) led by Major General Satinder Kumar Saini visited Tajikistan from 18-22 May 2015. Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 15 & 16 April 2015.

Commerce Secretary Smt. Rita Teotia led an Indian delegation to the India-Tajikistan Joint Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Dushanbe on 13 & 14 January 2016. A Roadmap on promotion of India-Tajikistan trade and economic relations was agreed upon during the IGC meeting.

Turkmenistan

The year witnessed unprecedented progress in relations with Turkmenistan, including a visit by the Vice-President, the first visit in over two decades of an Indian Prime Minister as well as a visit by EAM. PM Shri Narendra Modi visited Ashgabat from 10 & 11 July 2015 and held warm and substantive talks with President of Turkmenistan Mr Gurbanguly Berdimohamedov. PM inaugurated a Centre of Yoga and Traditional Medicine in Ashgabat, the first of its kind in the region. He also unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi and interacted with students of Azadi University of Foreign Languages who are learning Hindi. During the visit, seven documents were signed, including an MoU between the state concern Turkmenhimiya (Turkmen Chemicals) and the Indian company Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers on the supply of chemical products, an MoU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Foreign Service Institute of India, an MoU on cooperation in Tourism and an Agreement on Defence Cooperation.

Vice President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari visited Turkmenistan from 11-13 December 2015. He addressed the International Conference to mark the 20th Anniversary of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat on 12 December 2015. He also held a bilateral meeting with the President of Turkmenistan. Vice President also attended the Ground-breaking ceremony of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project held in Mary, Turkmenistan on 13 December 2015 along with

President of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

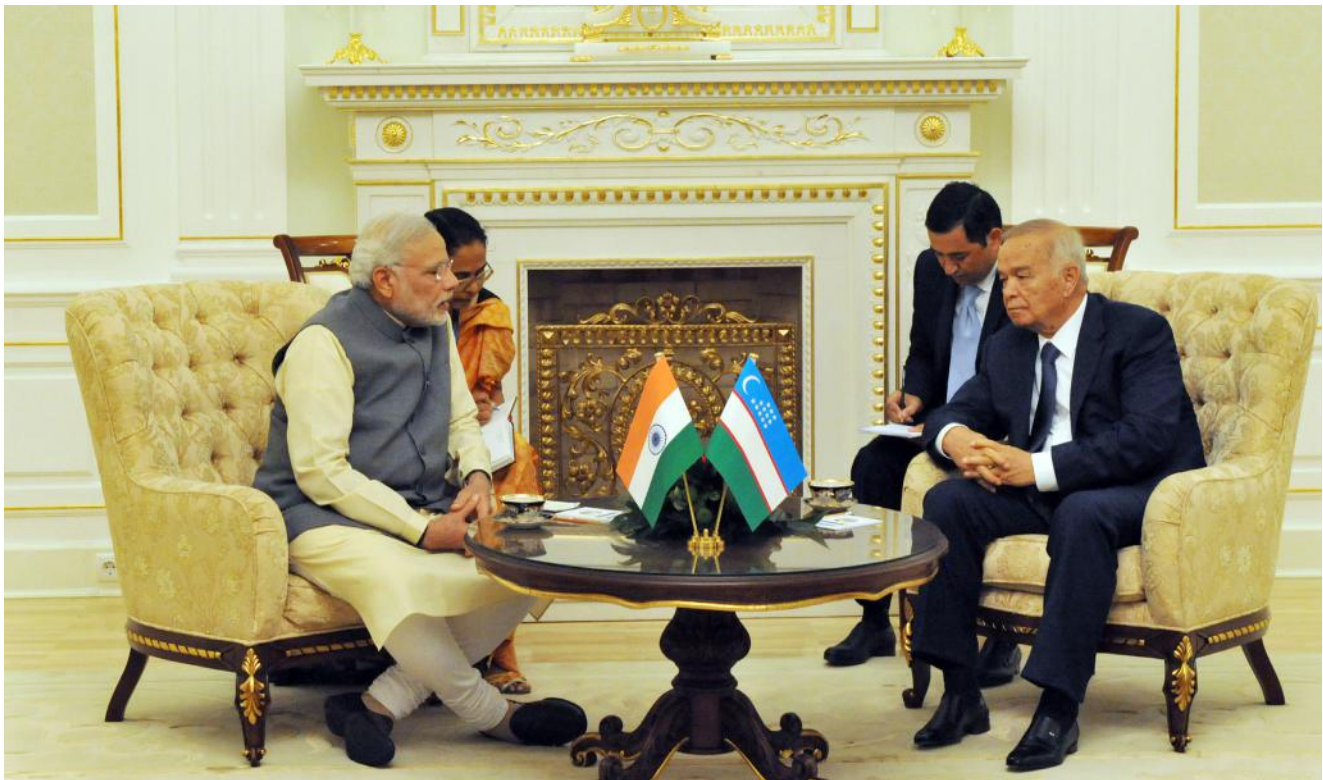
EAM visited Ashgabat from 7-9 April 2015 to attend the Fifth Meeting of the India-Turkmenistan Inter Governmental Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. At the IGC, an MoU for Improvement of the Turkmen-India Training and Industrial Centre (TITIC) in Ashgabat was signed. In addition, EAM also met Mr Rashid Meredov, DPM and Foreign Minister during her transit halt in Ashgabat on 19 October 2015 en route Moscow.

An 8-member delegation from Andhra Pradesh led by Mr. P. Narayana, Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development visited Ashgabat from 5-7 November 2015 to study town planning in connection with the development of the city, Amaravati in AP. They visited various facilities in Ashgabat to have first-hand knowledge of town planning. An India Tourism seminar titled 'Incredible India Road Show' was held in Ashgabat on 22 September, 2015 to highlight tourism potential of India to travel operators in Turkmenistan.

In the year 2015-16, 20 ITEC slots, 17 Defence Slots, 20 seats under General Scholarship Scheme (GSS-15 seats) and Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP-5 seats) were offered to Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan

India's historical ties and strategic partnership with Uzbekistan were elevated to a higher plane with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Tashkent from 6-7 July 2015. Tashkent was the first stop of Prime Minister's visit to Central Asian countries. PM had friendly and constructive discussions with the President of Uzbekistan Mr Islam Karimov on bilateral as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. A joint statement was issued during the visit covering various aspects of India's wide-ranging engagement with Uzbekistan. Agreements on cooperation in tourism as well as a Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and a Programme of Cultural Cooperation for the years 2015-2017 were signed during the visit. The two sides agreed to step up cooperation



Prime Minister meeting with President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan at Presidential Complex in Uzbekistan (06 July, 2015)

in trade and economy, counter-terrorism, cyber-security, defence as well as education and cultural exchanges.

A delegation led by Smt. Neeru Chadha, AS (L&T), MEA visited Tashkent in March 2015 for consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including a review of bilateral agreements between the two countries. Interactions on setting up of the GoI funded Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Tashkent continued. A six member delegation led by Finance Secretary, Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, visited Tashkent

to attend the meetings of the EAG working groups from 18-22 May 2015.

People-to-people contacts including tourism and cultural exchanges expanded during the year. An ICCR sponsored group participated in the Sharq Taronalari festival in the historical Samarkand town. India emerged as a major source of tourists for Uzbekistan and a major destination for Uzbek citizens seeking quality medical care.

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The Gulf and West Asia

Gulf

India enjoys close historical ties with the countries of the Gulf Region, which are cemented in age old civilizational links and strong people to people contact. This friendly relationship was further strengthened this year by regular exchange of high-level visits. The Gulf region is India's largest trading partner region with bilateral trade over US\$ 150 billion in 2014-15. The region also continues to be a major supplier of crude oil and LNG to India and accounts for over half of India's crude oil imports and over 85 percent of India's natural gas imports, remaining vital to India's energy security needs. Among India's top six oil sourcing countries, four are from the Gulf Region – Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and the UAE. The Gulf countries also host a seven-million strong Indian expatriate community which contributes to the development of the host countries and forms an organic link between India and the Gulf states.

Bahrain

The excellent bilateral relations between India and Bahrain were further deepened by a number of bilateral visits and meetings held during the year.

Bahraini Minister of Interior Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, paid an official visit to India from 1- 4 December 2015 at the invitation of Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh. During the visit, a bilateral agreement on Cooperation in combating international terrorism, transnational organized crime and trafficking in illicit, drugs, narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors chemicals was signed on 2 December 2015.

An Indian delegation led by Deputy National Security Advisor Dr. Arvind Gupta visited Bahrain to participate in the First bilateral institutionalised Security Dialogue with Bahrain on 1 November 2015. The delegation also

participated in the 2015 edition of the Manama Dialogue, organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies at Bahrain from 30 October to 1 November 2015.

An official delegation from Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Bahrain from 15-16 April 2015 for the second Joint Committee Meeting on Labour and Manpower Development .

The First Bahrain-India Joint Business Council meeting was held from 28-30 September 2015 at New Delhi. The Bahraini delegation was led by Mr. Khaled Al Amin from the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Nitin Joshi of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

The year was marked by goodwill visit of two Indian Naval Ships - INS 'Deepak' and 'Talbar' to Bahrain from 9-12 September 2015.

On the sidelines of the first India- Arab League Ministerial Meeting held in Bahrain on 23-24 January 2016, an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the **Transfer of Sentenced Persons** was signed.

Iran

India-Iran relations are rooted in history and are based on close cultural and civilisational affinities. In the modern context, India-Iran relations are marked by regular interactions, high level consultations including meeting between PM and President of Iran in Ufa, Russia on 9 July 2015. Iran is one of the sources of crude oil for the Indian economy. India Iran relations are marked by ties spread into diverse areas, such as trade and commerce , industry , energy (including on the transfer of Iranian gas to India), transport and communications, agriculture, consular, education and culture.



Prime Minister meeting with President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of 7th BRICS summit in Ufa, Russia (09 July 2015)



External Affairs Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran, Ali Tayebnia at the signing ceremony in New Delhi (28 December, 2015)

Foreign Secretary held Foreign Office Consultations in Tehran on 13 & 14 June 2015 where a proposal was made to significantly revamp the main institutional mechanism of Joint Commission meeting (JCM). It was proposed to Iranian side that the JCM would continue to be co-chaired by EAM and Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance and also oversee the work of the 3 main Joint Working Groups - (i) JWG on Trade (ii) JWG on Infrastructure and Ports, and (iii) JWG on Energy.

The Joint Commission meeting was co-Chaired by External Affairs Minister and Dr. Ali Tayebina, Minister of Economy and Finance, Iran on 28 December 2015 in New Delhi. The meeting of the Joint Working Groups on Trade was held on 18 & 19 November 2015 and the meetings of Joint Working groups on Energy and Infrastructure were held on the sidelines of the Joint Commission Meeting itself.

Separately, as a follow up to the 8th meeting of the India-Iran Joint Consular Committee held in Tehran on 18-19 May 2014, a meeting, for the negotiations towards finalizing a bilateral visa facilitation Agreement for holders of diplomatic and official/service passports, co-chaired by JS (CPV) and Director General, Consular Affairs, Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held on 18 & 19 April 2015 in Tehran, Iran. In the meeting, a mutually agreed draft text of the proposed Agreement to facilitate issuance of visas for holders of diplomatic and official/service passports between India and Iran was arrived at and initialled by the two sides. The agreement was signed in the 9th meeting of the Joint Consular Committee on 18 December 2015 in New Delhi and exchanged in the Joint Commission Meeting on 28 December 2015.

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport , Highways and Shipping visited Iran from 5-7 May 2015 and signed the Inter-Governmental MoU on Chahbahar Port. The contract negotiations between India Port Global Pvt Ltd and Arya Banader are going on.

After successful trial run in August 2014 , the 7th meeting of Experts Group and the 6th meeting of the Coordination council of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) was held from 19-21 August 2015 in New Delhi.

India welcomed lifting of some sanctions against Iran on 'Implementation Day' (16 January 2016). Foreign office consultation between Foreign Secretary and Deputy Foreign

Minister of Iran in New Delhi on 4 February 2016 focused on expanding economic cooperation in particular.

Iraq

India has traditionally enjoyed historic, close and multifaceted relations with Iraq and supports it in its war against terror. Iraq continues to be the second-largest supplier of crude oil to India and remains a reliable partner in our quest for energy security.

The continued fragile security situation in Iraq resulting out of ISIS attacks launched in June 2014 has remained a matter of deep concern for India. Despite the volatile security situation in Iraq, India continues to maintain its Mission in Baghdad to engage closely with the Government of Iraq and also a control room in Erbil, Kurdistan to provide consular assistance to Indian nationals. Since beginning of the crisis in Iraq, the Government of India has provided assistance to over 7,195 Indian nationals to leave Iraq safely.

A four-member delegation from the Ministry of Electricity of Republic of Iraq headed by Deputy Minister-Distribution Affairs visited Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) from 6-10 May 2015 for exploring possibilities of sourcing electrical equipment from India.

The first bilateral Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 16 November 2015. The Iraqi side was led by Mr. Nazar Al-Khairullah, Deputy Minister for Bilateral Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq and the Indian side by Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East). The two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various areas, including political, defence & security, energy security, economic and cultural, and exchanged views on regional and multilateral matters of importance. The Iraqi delegation also had a meeting with members of FICCI on 17 November 2015 and discussed ways to expand bilateral trade and address outstanding trade and commercial issues.

Israel

During the period under review, India-Israeli bilateral engagement strengthened in traditional areas of cooperation like defence and agriculture while expanding to new areas such as cyber security and space. The highlight during the period was the first ever state visit to Israel by President Shri Pranab Mukherjee from 13-15 October 2015. In addition to meeting President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu, the President addressed a session at the Knesset and made a policy statement on India-Israel relations. A number of agreements were signed during the visit, including 8 agreements among universities.

Defence cooperation progressed through institutional mechanisms like Air Staff talks and exchange of visits. INS Trikand made a port of call at Haifa in August. The jointly developed Barak-8 missile was successfully test fired in Israel in November. From the Israeli side, the Naval and Air Force Chiefs visited India as part of regular high level defence exchanges. Cooperation in homeland security deepened through the implementation of the inter-governmental agreement. Working groups on police modernization, capacity building and border management met in Israel during the period and mapped out specific areas of cooperation in each of these areas.

Among other areas, a bilateral meeting between Indian Space Research Organisation and Israel Space Agency took place in October in Jerusalem. In the area of cyber, the 4th cyber roundtable between Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Tel Aviv University was held in June 2015. This roundtable comprised experts from industry and academia on both sides. Following this, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur is discussing various models of cooperation in the field with Israeli Universities. Academic engagement between Indian institutes and Israeli Universities increased during the period. In agriculture, the third phase of India-Israel Agriculture Cooperation (2015-18) was launched in September 2015. The first Centre of Excellence in Agriculture in Gujarat was inaugurated in August 2015.

The 8th India-Israel Forum was held in Israel in October 2015. The forum was attended by leading figures from the industry in both countries. Wide-ranging discussions included, inter alia subjects like bilateral trade and investments, internet of things and new avenues in defence partnership. The mission's outreach to the Indian Jewish community made notable progress. The Third Convention for Indian Jews was held in August, drawing participation from all sections of the community. Open houses and other new consular initiatives introduced during the period were well received by the Indian expatriate community in Israel.

Hon'ble EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj made a bilateral visit to Israel on 17 & 18 January 2016. This was the first visit of EAM to Israel which furthered India's multifaceted relations with Israel.

Jordan

At the invitation of His Majesty King Abdullah-II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State visit to Jordan from 10-12 October 2015 and had extensive discussions on entire gamut of bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

East Africa Summit (Aqaba 3 meeting) took place at the level of Heads of States of the African countries and high level military and intelligence officials in Aqaba from 23-24 January 2016. India participated at the level of Special Envoy on Counter Terrorism.

India-Jordan Business Forum took place on the sidelines of the CII Partnership Summit held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 10-12 January 2016.

A security dialogue mechanism between India and Jordan has been institutionalized at the level of Dy NSA from the Indian side and NSA and DG, Intelligence from the Jordanian side.

Kuwait

The close, multifaceted and friendly relations between India and Kuwait were further cemented during the year. India has consistently been among the top ten trading partners of Kuwait and Kuwait has been a reliable supplier of crude oil and LPG to India and meets about 6% of our energy needs. The Indian community of over 800,000 is the largest expatriate community in Kuwait.

The fourth meeting of the India-Kuwait JWG on Hydrocarbon was held on 15-16 September 2015 in New Delhi. Protocol for amending the Agreement between the India and Kuwait for the avoidance of double taxation (DTAA) and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income was signed on 25 August 2015 in Kuwait. The Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between India and Kuwait signed in New Delhi in November 2013 during the State visit of Kuwaiti Prime Minister, came into effect from 3 April 2015.

An eight-member delegation from the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) visited New Delhi from 25-26 May 2015 and held meetings with the officials of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR),



External Affairs Minister and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel jointly address the media in Jerusalem (18 January 2016)



President meets King Abdullah of Jordan at Al Husseinieh Palace in Amman, Jordan (10 October 2015)

New Delhi. An MOU on bilateral cooperation between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) was signed on 30 September 2015.

Shri B. Ashok, Chairman, IOCL visited Kuwait on 5 & 6 April 2015 followed by a visit of Mr. Nizar Al-Adsani, CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to New Delhi on 20 August 2015 to discuss commercial issues in oil sector between IOCL and KPC.

The CII, with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, organized an “India Pavilion” at ‘The Big 5 Kuwait’, an International Construction Technology & Building Materials Trade Exhibition in Kuwait from 14-16 September 2015.

Some leading Indian companies, including Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Essar Projects Ltd., Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd. were awarded EPC contracts worth over US\$ 900 million during 2015 in Kuwait in the hydrocarbon and construction sectors.

Two Indian Naval ships ‘INS Deepak’ and ‘INS Tabar’ made a goodwill visit to Kuwait from 13-16 September 2015.

In December 2015, Kuwait Investment Authority announced an investment of US\$ 300 million in GMR Infrastructure Ltd.

A 3-member delegation from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce & Industry led by its Undersecretary participated at the Partnership Summit held in Vishakhapatnam from 10-12 January 2016. Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce & Industry, Dr. Yousef Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ali led a Kuwaiti delegation for “Make in India Week” at Mumbai from 13-18 February 2016.

Lebanon

Since May 2014, Lebanon has been unable to elect a President. Similarly, many issues continued unresolved or unimplemented during 2015, such as drafting a new electoral law; holding parliamentary elections; and decision on oil and gas exploration tenders. The economy continued to slow down while the pressure of the Syrian refugees on infrastructure and civil society continued unabated. In North Lebanon, the Army has so far been successful in arresting inroads by the Islamic State in Syria and ash-Sham (ISIS) and other jihadi forces into Lebanese territory, and security

forces have managed to curb incidents of terrorism in the country to quite some extent, though there were devastating suicide bombings in Beirut in the month of November 2015.

Bilaterally, the focus continued on academic and cultural relations. First Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair is being established in the Lebanese American University, an ICCR fellowship awarded to a Lebanese for the first time, and with a Lebanese delegate participating for the first time in the annual Observer Research Foundation(ORF) Youth Summit. Again for the first time, a delegation of tour operators from Lebanon was sponsored this year on a familiarisation tour to Kerala. Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday was marked this year by the first ‘Run for Peace’ organised in South Lebanon in collaboration with the Indian UNIFIL contingent. The Embassy continued to organise regular cultural events such as panel discussions, India Days, food festivals, folk dance and puppet performances, screening of Indian films etc. Trade projection continued with participation in local exhibitions including mounting an Indian Pavilion in the Art of Living fair which displayed the Bajaj Pulsar motorbikes and Bajaj auto rickshaws, Kelvinator generators and water pumps as also machine tools from India, all of which attracted considerable attention.

Oman

Oman is India’s maritime neighbour and bilateral historical relations with Oman have evolved into a strategic partnership. The year 2015 marked the Diamond Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Oman and to commemorate the 60th anniversary, a series of cultural events were organized.

The first official visit of External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj to Muscat in February 2015 gave a new momentum to India’s partnership with Oman, which was further strengthened in 2015-16. On the sidelines of 70th session of the UNGA, EAM met Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs of Oman on 30 September 2015 to discuss early finalization of the India-GCC FTA and the India-GCC Framework Agreement .

Deputy NSA Dr. Arvind Gupta visited Oman from 2-5 November 2015 to hold the third round of Strategic Dialogue with his Omani counterpart, Secretary General of National Security Council Maj. General Ahmed Salman Khushoob.

During the visit, he called on Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Oil & Gas and Secretary General, Ministry of Defence.

Cooperation in security and defence areas are two key pillars of India-Oman Strategic Partnership. Oman continued to render cooperation in security matters, including assistance in evacuation of Indians stranded in Yemen. Fifteen Indian students stuck in Yemen were evacuated through Oman-Yemen border in Salalah with the help of Omani authorities.

Defence relations between India and Oman continued to expand further during the year. Oman is the only country in the Gulf region with which all the three defence forces of India conduct joint exercises.

Indian Air Force Chief, Air Marshal Raha, visited Oman in August 2015 and held discussions with Commander of Royal Air Force, Chief of Staff of Sultan's Armed Forces and Secretary General, MOD. Commander of Royal Navy of Oman visited India from 7-10 September 2015 and met his Indian counterpart.

Indian Naval and Coast Guard Ships continued to make port-calls at Muscat and Salalah. INS Tarangini visited Muscat in May 2015. Four ships of Indian Western Fleet, INS Deepak, Delhi, Tabar and Trishul called together at Muscat Port in September 2015. Sailing Ship INS Taringini and Royal Navy of Oman's Sailing Ship, 'Shabab Oman', sailed together in a Joint Voyage from Muscat to Kochi in November-December 2015. Through their Joint Voyage, they traced the ancient spice trade route through Indian Ocean between India and Oman. Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Sankalp visited Muscat from 9-12 February 2016. Indian Naval Ships engaged in anti-piracy and other operations continued to call at Salalah Port for operational turn-around. Similarly, aircraft of Indian Air Force and Navy continued to use Muscat and Salalah airports for technical and operational halts.

Seven health care institutes/hospitals and fifteen firms from the food industry participated at Oman Medhealth & Wellness Exhibition as well as Oman Food and Hospitality Exhibition in September 2015. Three Indian companies participated at the first Mineral and Mines Exhibition in Muscat in November 2015.

To attract Indian investments in Oman, Chairman of Ithraa, Oman's inward investment and export promotion Agency,

led a delegation of fourteen Omani companies from the food processing, fertilizers and plastic sectors to India from 10-13 August 2015 and held an interactive session with CII, a business seminar and B2B meetings with Indian importers, agents and manufacturers. In October, an India-Oman Investment Meet was organized by Ithraa where twelve Indian companies participated.

India participated at the annual Muscat Festival (January-February 2015) by setting up an India Pavilion. Bhangra and Giddha groups, sponsored by the ICCR, performed at the Festival. As part of the 60th anniversary celebrations, a Film Festival was organized in April 2015 in association with local Cinema and Yash Raj Films, and an Indian textile exhibition called 'Vastram-Splendid world of Indian Textiles', featuring more than 30 traditional Indian textiles, was organized in October 2015. A traditional dance group from Rajasthan performed at the annual Indian Community Festivals at Muscat, Sohar, Sur and Salalah in November 2015.

Eighth India-Oman JMCC was held in Muscat from 8-9 February 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Defence Secretary.

Palestine

The highlight of the period was the first-ever state visit of the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Palestine from 12-13 October 2015. President Mukherjee met with President Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah, and the leaders of Palestinian political parties and reiterated India's strong support to the Palestinian cause. President Mukherjee inaugurated a number of projects to support the capacity building and human resource development initiatives of Palestinian Government.

Prime Minister Modi expressed India's support on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in November 2015. The year also marked an unprecedented high-level political interaction between India and Palestine. Prime Minister Modi met President Mahmoud Abbas in New York on the side-lines of UN General Assembly meeting in September 2015. Both the leaders again met in Paris on the sidelines of Global Summit on Climate Change in November, 2015. External Affairs Minister met with Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah and Foreign Minister Dr. Riad Al Malki on the sidelines of Asia Africa Commemoration Conference in Bandung,



President being accorded ceremonial welcome at Ramallah during his State visit to Palestine (12 October 2015)



Prime Minister meeting with Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Antalya (16 November, 2015)

Indonesia in April 2015. Secretary (East) visited Palestine in July 2015 and called on President Abbas, Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah and met with Dr. Taysir Jaradat, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The first-ever Foreign Office Consultations between India and Palestine were held in Ramallah in May 2015.

During the year 2015, the Middle East Peace Process did not make any headway. The latter half of the year was marked by escalation in tensions with sporadic incidents of violence, which took a heavy toll of lives mostly on the Palestinian sides. India called for exercise of restraint and the need to avoid provocation on part of both sides.

During the year, India provided a total of US\$ 10 million as financial assistance to Palestine - US\$ 4 million was provided as project assistance towards the reconstruction of Gaza on 12 January 2015, US\$ 5 million was provided as budgetary assistance on 12 October 2015 and US\$ 1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the welfare of Palestinian refugees on 25 November 2015. India offered 10 ICCR sponsored scholarships for Palestinians for higher studies in India. The Indian and Palestinian Universities signed 5 MoUs of academic cooperation and joint research during the visit. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme, 80 slots were offered to the Palestinian nationals for training courses in 2015.

On 21 June 2015, International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Palestine. An Indian Council of Cultural Relations sponsored exhibition of Islamic monuments in India, and a Santoor performance by Dr Varsha Agarwal was organised by the Representative Office. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India sponsored an Indian Food Festival, Indian Bazaar and also an exploration tour of three Palestinian tour operators to India during the period.

Hon'ble EAM visited Ramallah on 17 January 2016. The visit further renewed India's continued engagement with the Palestinian leadership and also affirmed India's strong support to the Palestinian cause.

Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial and friendly relations reflecting the centuries old economic and socio-cultural ties. Saudi Arabia hosts over 2.75 million Indian expatriates, the

largest Indian passport holding community outside India. The two countries have made steady progress in political, economic, defence and security cooperation. The two sides regularly exchange high level visits and remain engaged at various levels.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the sidelines of G20 meeting in Antalya, Turkey on 16 November 2015.

The eleventh Joint Commission Meeting, co-chaired by Saudi Commerce and Industry Minister Dr. Tawfiq Al Rabiah and Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, was held in New Delhi on 28 May 2015. The Saudi Commerce and Industry Minister also met with External Affairs Minister and Minister of Communications & Information Technology and discussed issues of bilateral interest.

Economic engagement forms an intrinsic part of India-Saudi 'Strategic Partnership'. Saudi Arabia supplies over 20% of India's oil requirements and plays a vital role in India's energy security. Saudi Arabia is the fourth largest trading partner of India with a bilateral trade in excess of US\$ 39 billion.

An official delegation from Saudi Arabia led by Saudi Deputy Minister of Petroleum Affairs Mr Naif Al Otaibi visited India on 16 October 2015 and met with the Commerce Secretary and other officials to discuss anti-dumping issues.

An official and business delegation headed by Eng. Saleh bin Shabbab Al Solami, Deputy Minister for Industry Affairs, Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Saudi Arabia visited India from 8-10 December 2015 and met senior officials of Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India.

A delegation of thirty Saudi businessmen, participated in the Global Exhibition on Services in New Delhi during April 2015. In August 2015, 12 Saudi businessmen participated in the Indian International Jewellery Show in Mumbai.

The first meeting of India-Saudi Arabia Business Council was held on 14 December 2015 at New Delhi. The Saudi delegation was led by Mr Kamel Al-Munajjed, Co-Chairman of Saudi- India Business Council. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Siddarth Birla from Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

The second Joint Technical Meeting under the Agreement

on Labour Cooperation between India and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on domestic Service Workers' Recruitment was held in New Delhi on 12 & 13 October 2015.

Indian Naval Ship INS Tarangini visited Jeddah port on a goodwill visit on 29 May 2015. Two Indian Naval Ship INS Delhi and INS Trishul also visited Al Jubail Port from 10-13 September 2015.

During Haj 2015, around 136,000 Indians visited the Kingdom to perform Haj. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) visited Kingdom on 6 October 2015 and met with the Saudi Health Minister Mr. Khalid Al Falih to discuss issues pertaining to the welfare of Indian Haj pilgrims.

Qatar

The multi-faceted engagement between India and Qatar further intensified during the year. Law and Justice Minister Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda led an Indian delegation to Doha to participate in the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April, 2015. During the visit, he met with Qatar's Justice Minister Dr. Hassan bin Lahdnan Al Hassan Al Mohannadi.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Doha on 8-10 November 2015, leading a high level delegation to the 6th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable. During the visit, he paid a courtesy call on Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar. He also met his Qatari counterpart Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh A Sada.

The fourth bilateral Joint Defence Cooperation Committee was held in New Delhi on 6 January 2015. Two warships of Indian Navy's Western Fleet, INS Delhi and INS Trishul, paid a goodwill visit to Doha from 14-17 September 2015. Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sankalp visited Doha from 24-28 January 2016 as part of overseas deployment (OSD) of the ship to the Arabian Gulf.

The second edition of Fath Al Khair, a cultural voyage to trace the Pearl trade route that existed between Arab world and India in the past, was flagged off at Doha on 5 October 2015 on a historic 44-day voyage to the Indian port of Mumbai with a 30-member team of sailors led by Captain Hasan al Kabbi on the traditional Dhow via Oman. During

the journey, the crew sailed from Mumbai to Calicut in Kerala and visited key locations from where people from the Gulf, including Qataris, used to conduct trade in the past and had their Dhows manufactured. Governor of Maharashtra Shri Vidyasagar Rao was the chief Guest in the receiving Ceremony held in Mumbai on 24 October 2015. The dhow left Mumbai for Doha on 3 November 2015.

ASSOCHAM coordinated the participation of over sixty Indian companies at Project Qatar, a major exhibition in infrastructural sectors in Doha in May 2015. A delegation of Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association visited Qatar on 27 October 2015 to promote 'ELECRAMA 2016' scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from 13-17 February 2016.

The cultural events included 'A Passage to India' Community Festival on 19 & 20 March 2015; and Kathak performances by an ICCR-sponsored troupe on 5 & 6 August 2015.

Doha Film Institute organised a special screening of three Indian films at its 'Spotlight on Independent Indian Cinema' event at Museum of Islamic Art, Doha on 11 & 12 November 2015.

Syria

In ongoing crisis in Syria, India continues to maintain its consistent position of peaceful resolution of conflicts. India has called upon all sides to the Syrian conflict to abjure violence so that conducive conditions can be created for an inclusive political dialogue leading to a comprehensive political solution, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. India has maintained that there can be no military solution to this conflict and any external military intervention in Syria's affairs should be excluded. India supports the global efforts to resolve the ongoing Syrian crisis through political solution. India's cooperation with Syria under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and Indian Council of Cultural Relations Scholarships continued during the year.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The traditionally close and friendly relations between India and UAE were further cemented by exchange of high-level visits during the year.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a State visit to UAE



Prime Minister meeting with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at Abu Dhabi (16 August 2015)

on 16 & 17 August 2015. This historic visit of the Prime Minister taking place after a gap of 34 years brought a paradigm shift in our relations with UAE, elevating the relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership level. The two sides agreed not only to consolidate achievements in the existing domains but also to explore new areas of cooperation, such as space, renewable energy and defence production. It was also agreed to increase the bilateral trade by 60% during the next five years and encourage the investment institutions of UAE to raise their investments in India, including through the establishment of UAE-India Infrastructure Fund, with the aim at reaching a target of US\$ 75 billion to support investment in India's plans for rapid expansion of next generation infrastructure. The two sides also resolved to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism operations, intelligence sharing and capacity building and work together for the adoption of India's proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN.

The growing engagement with UAE was further strengthened by the State visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 10-13 February 2016. Nine Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit, in

the following areas: (i) Cyber Space and combating Cyber Crimes; (ii) Framework for Facilitating Participation of UAE Institutional Investors in Infrastructural Investments in India; (iii) Framework Agreement on Renewable Energy Cooperation; (iv) MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency on Cooperation in the Exploration and use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes; (v) Bilateral cooperation between Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDA) and the Insurance Authority of UAE; (vi) Executive Programme for Cultural Cooperation (EPCC) between India and UAE; (vii) Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), GoI, and The National Qualifications Authority (NQA), UAE on Cooperation for skill development and recognition of qualifications (viii) MoU between Dubai Economic Council (DEC) and Export-Import bank of India; and (ix) MoU on Indian Rupee (INR)/UAE Dirham (AED) Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement between Reserve Bank of India and Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley visited UAE from 15-17 November 2015 and met his counterpart, Sheikh Hamdan



Photo of INS Mumbai which came to Djibouti (5 April) with Indians evacuated from Yemen.

and the MD of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority Sheikh Hamed. He was also a keynote speaker at the UAE-India Economic forum held in Dubai on 16 November 2015.

Minister of State (IC) for Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited UAE from 12-13 October 2015 for co-chairing the 3rd meeting of the High Level Task Force on Investment with MD of ADIA. During the visit, she called on the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and also met Deputy Prime Minister of UAE, Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri A.K. Aggarwal visited UAE from 14-17 October 2015. He called on Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and also met Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and discussed issues pertaining to recruitment and employment of Indian workers.

Minister of State for Finance, Shri Jayant Sinha visited UAE from 15-17 April 2015 and met his UAE counterpart, Mr. Obaid Al Tayer.

From the UAE side, important high level visits included visit of Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan from 3-4 September 2015 for co-chairing with EAM the 11th session of the Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation between India and UAE. He was accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sheikha Reem Ibrahim Al Hashimi. Four MoUs for cooperation in the field of Tourism; Higher Education and Scientific Research; cooperation between Telecom regulatory authorities of India and UAE and revised MoU on Technical cooperation between BIS and EASM (Emirates Authority for Standardization and Meteorology) were signed during the visit.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Anwar Gargash visited India from 6-7 December 2015 and discussed matters of bilateral interest and of regional and multilateral importance.

On invitation of Commander of UAE Air Force and Air Defence, Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall Arup Raha paid a goodwill visit to UAE from 19-21 August 2015. Four Indian naval ships of Indian Navy Delhi, Tabar, Trishul and Tabar visited Dubai, UAE as a part of Overseas Deployment from 5-8 September 2015. 5th Naval Staff Talk between Indian and

UAE Navy took place in Abu Dhabi on 16 & 17 September 2015. A 28-member delegation from UAE National Defence College visited India from 14-20 November 2015.

Yemen

India and Yemen enjoy a long history of close and historical people-to-people contacts. Due to the deterioration of political and security situation in Yemen, the Government of India, in coordination with the Indian Missions in Sana and Addis Ababa, undertook a massive evacuation exercise 'Operation Raahat' in April 2015. A total number of 6,710 persons, including 4,748 Indians and 1,962 foreign nationals of 48 countries were assisted in evacuation by air and sea routes from Sana'a airport and Aden, Al Hudaydah and Al Mukalla ports.

The Embassy of India to Yemen has been temporarily relocated to Djibouti since 14 April 2015. The Embassy has been continuing its assistance to stranded Indian nationals in Yemen for their evacuation to India via Djibouti.

Dr. Ahmed Salem Saleh Al-Wahishi, Director of Yemen International Affairs Center, participated in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meeting of Experts on Maritime Safety and Security which was held in New Delhi on 13 & 14 October 2015.

Arab League

There was an upswing in the India-Arab League relations following the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) and an Executive Programme of the Arab India Cooperation Forum between India and the Arab League for 2014-15 in December 2013. A five members delegation from Arab League and Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited New Delhi in November 2015 and held wide ranging discussions with Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. They also called on Vice President and External Affairs Minister.

External Affairs Minister visited Bahrain (23 & 24 January 2016) for India-Arab League Ministerial Meeting during which the two sides issued Manama Declaration and also renewed the Executive Program of Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum for the year 2016-17. This was 1st Ministerial Meeting under the Arab-India Cooperation Forum and stepped up India's engagement with the Arab world with which India shares closed and multifaceted relations.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Dr. Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah co-chaired the 9th annual India -Gulf Cooperation Council political dialogue on the sidelines of 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 30 September 2015.

The 4th India-GCC Industrial Forum was held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 18-19 November 2015 during which economic and investment ties including free trade zone and partnerships in infrastructure, IT, healthcare, energy, food and agriculture were discussed.

Haj

The Haj is the largest overseas activity undertaken by Government of India outside Indian borders. Although it is only a five day long religious congregation, it virtually is a year long managerial exercise. Indian pilgrims constitute the third largest national group performing the Haj.

In Haj 2015, a total of 1,35,868 pilgrims undertook the Haj pilgrimage (99868 pilgrims through Haj Committee of India (HCOI) & 36000 from Private Tour Operators (PTO's).

Government of India attaches high priority to Haj pilgrimage. It has been the constant endeavor of Government to address issues related to Haj pilgrimage and to make improvements in the arrangements for the Haj pilgrims. Ministry of External Affairs coordinates arrangements for Haj pilgrimage in consultation with the Haj Committee of India and the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. Every year, Ministry of External affairs sends deputationists (Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers, Haj Assistants, Doctors and Paramedical staff) for rendering assistance to the Haj pilgrims. Every year, Consulate General of India, Jeddah arranges for temporary tents in Mina, sets up branch Haj Officers and dispensaries in Makkah & Madinah, provides medicines, ambulance, other local transport etc. for the Haj pilgrims.

For Haj 2015, Ministry of External Affairs sent 543 deputationists and supplied Medicines and medical equipment worth Rs. 1.76 crores to Consulate General

of India, Jeddah. Consulate General of India, Jeddah established main offices in Makkah and Madinah, 13 branch offices in Makkah, 3 branch offices in Madinah, offices with dispensaries at Jeddah and Madinah Haj Terminals, a 40-bedded hospital in Makkah, a 40-bedded hospital in Azizia region of Makkah, 13 branch dispensaries in Makkah, a 10-bedded main dispensary in Madinah and 3 branch dispensaries in Madinah.

To provide better facilities and amenities for Haj pilgrims, several initiatives have been undertaken. These include: strengthening of medical services for Haj pilgrims; streamlining of air travel arrangements for pilgrims by ensuring effective management of timely arrival and departure of flights; procurement of Adahi coupons through Islamic Development Bank; supply of standardized baggage to all pilgrims; 24X7 helpline, of Mobile Phone Application - "Indian Hajjis Accommodation Locator" with information for Indian pilgrims; speedy and effective online complaint management system.

A two member's Haj Goodwill Delegation led by Ms Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) & Shri Anwar Mohammed Khan visited Saudi Arabia as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Good will Delegation from 17 September- 7 October 2015 to examine the facilities first hand. Ms. Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed also met Mr. Bander Al-Hijjar, Minister of Haj, Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and discussed various issues related to Haj pilgrims.

On 11 September 2015, a crane accident occurred in Haram Sharif, Makkah in which 13 Indian Haj pilgrims died and 19 were injured. On 24 September 2015, an incident of stampede occurred in Mina. 120 Indian Haj pilgrims died and 51 pilgrims injured in the stampede. 3 Indian pilgrims were reported missing. Ministry of External Affairs & Consulate General of India Jeddah provided immediate assistance to the injured & families of the deceased. Indian Doctors and Paramedical staffs sent on deputation were immediately deployed by Consulate General of India, Jeddah to render medical assistance to the affected pilgrims.

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Algeria

The 5th round of India-Algeria Foreign Office Consultations took place in New Delhi on 7 May 2015. The Indian side was led by Joint Secretary (WANA), MEA and the Algerian side was led by Amb Mr. Boumediene Guennad, Director General (Asia Oceania) in the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The 9th Session of the India-Algeria Joint Commission for Economic Trade, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation was held on 25-26 May 2015 in Algiers. Indian delegation was led by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) of Commerce & Industry and the Algerian delegation was led by Mr. Boudjema Talai, Algerian Minister of Transport.

India participated at the 48th Algerian International Fair on the invitation of the Algerian side, as "Guest of Honour" country which coincided with 9th Joint Commission Meeting. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture visited Algiers from 11-13 July 2015 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for delivering invitations for 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015 to the Algerian President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

Minister of Commerce Mr Bakhti Belaïb, represented Algeria, on 27 October 2015 in New Delhi in the proceedings of the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the 3rd India-Africa Summit and Minister of Maghreb Affairs, the African Union and the Arab League Abdelkader Messahel represented Algeria in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit Meeting held in New Delhi in October 2015.

Visit of H.E. Dr. Salah Khebri, Minister of Energy of the Government of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to India from 21-22 January 2016 to attend India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in New Delhi

A business delegation for "Make in India" week from 13-18 February 2016 in Mumbai.

Angola

India's close and friendly long standing relations with Angola were further enhanced through the exchange of high level visits under the Third India Africa Summit (IAFS-III). Minister of State for External Affairs Dr (Gen) V.K. Singh (Retd) visited Luanda on 17 July 2015 as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India to hand over the letter of invitation for IAFS-III. Angolan Vice President, Mr. Manuel Vicente led a high level delegation to IAFS-III in New Delhi in October 2015 which included the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Information Technology and Telecommunications. While the Vice President had a bilateral meeting with the PM, other members of the delegation also had fruitful meetings with their Indian counterparts. The Angolan side expressed deep satisfaction with the outcome of the visit. As the second largest supplier of crude oil to India in sub-Saharan Africa, Angola continues to play a pivotal role in meeting India's energy requirements. A 2-member delegation led by CMD, ONGC Videsh Ltd visited Angola in October 2015 to explore possibilities for furthering cooperation in the hydro carbon sector. Bilateral trade has expanded significantly from only US\$ 446.60 million during 2006-07 to US\$ 5169 million in 2014-15, with India becoming the third largest trading partner of Angola. Progress continues in the setting up of the Industrial Park Project and the Textile Project in Angola, under two Lines of Credit for US\$ 30 million and US\$ 15 million respectively extended through Exim Bank. Private investment in Angola by Indians/Indian-origin entities is also on the rise. Angola supported India's candidacies in various multilateral fora.

A high-level delegation from Angola comprising senior functionaries from the Angolan Ministry of Petroleum and the national oil exploration company, Sonangol, participated in the Fourth India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in New Delhi on 21 & 22 January 2016.

Benin

PM's Special Envoy MoS (HRD) visited Cotonou, Benin on 14 & 15 September 2015 and called on Beninese President Boni Yayi to hand over the invitation letter for IAFS-III. He also met with the Foreign Minister Saliou Akadiri. Accordingly, Beninese President Boni Yayi visited New Delhi for IAFS-III from 26-30 October 2015. He was accompanied by a 27-member delegation comprising the Foreign Minister, Minister of Commerce & Industry and senior officials. Earlier, Beninese Minister of Industry and Commerce visited India to attend the fourth meeting of the India-Africa Trade Ministers on 23 October 2015.

BOTSWANA

India-Botswana trade is US\$ 1 billion. The Indian origin community is around 10,000 persons. Development partnership includes scholarships, supply of IT equipment and medical supplies.

Vice President of Botswana Mr. Mokgweetsi E. Masisi participated at the Third Indian Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. She was accompanied by Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. She met with Prime Minister.

Botswana's Vice-President also addressed a Botswana Business Seminar in Mumbai before the Summit. The Seminar was organized by the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre, Mumbai. A seven-member CII delegation visited Botswana in December 2015 to further explore business opportunities.

Botswana assumed Presidency of Southern African Development Community (SADC) during the 35th SADC Summit in Gaborone in August 2015.

Burkina Faso

MoS for Agriculture visited Burkina Faso as PM's Special Envoy to hand over IAFS-III letter of invitation to the Interim President on 9 July 2015. Burkinabe Foreign Minister led the delegation for IAFS-III in October 2015. International Day of Yoga was organized in Ouagadougou on 21 June 2015. A Yoga expert from India jointly with three yoga practitioners from Ouagadougou, gave a demonstration as per the Common Yoga Protocol. Around 150 people attended the event. A Rajasthani folk dance troupe, 'Sapera', sponsored by ICCR gave two performances in Ouagadougou in September 2015.

The first was a joint performance with Burkinabe musical group and the second was a solo performance before Indian community.

Burundi

India-Burundi trade is US\$ 30 million. Development assistance includes the setting up of a Vocational Training Centre, a 20 MW Hydropower project (Kabu) under concessional credit (US\$ 80 million) and a project for Farm Mechanisation; and education and training scholarships; and humanitarian assistance. India also provides US\$ 100,000 for Burundi's Mission to the UN. The Indian origin community in Burundi numbers around 400-500.

First Vice-President Gaston Sindimwo led the delegation of Burundi at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister. He was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Alain A. Nyamitwe, who had a bilateral meeting with EAM on the sidelines of the Summit.

Minister of State for Rural Development Shri Sudarshan Bhagat visited Burundi in July 2015 as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to extend invitation for the Summit. He called on President Pierre Nkurunziza and met Foreign Minister Alain Nyamitwe.

Pierre Nkurunziza was sworn in as President for a third term in Office in August 2015 following Presidential elections.

Cameroon

Cameroonian State Secretary for Public Health visited India to attend the India-Africa Health Forum 2015 organized by CII in April 2015. MoS (HRD) visited Cameroon from 15-17 July 2015 as PM's Special Envoy to hand over letter of invitation for IAFS-III to the Cameroonian leadership. It was Cameroonian External Relations Minister who represented the Cameroonian side at the IAFS-III from 26-30 October 2015.

Cape Verde

PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Rural Development visited Praia, Cape Verde from 16-19 September 2015 to hand over PM's letter of invitation for IAFS-III. Minister of External Relations of Cape Verde attended the Summit. International Yoga Day was celebrated in Praia on 21 June 2015. The event

was attended by about 50 people including representatives from the government, diplomats, local people, members of Indian community and visiting tourists. India continues to provide capacity enhancement support to Cape Verde. For the financial year 2015-16, 10 slots were available for it. 9 Scholarship slots have been offered to Cape Verde under Africa Scholarship Scheme for the academic year 2015-2016. Bilateral trade for the year 2014-15 stood at US\$ 7.09 million with exports from India of US\$ 4.12 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 2.97 million.

Central African Republic (CAR)

GoI had extended a Line of Credit [LoC] project of US\$ 24 million for construction and commissioning of a 400 MT/day cement plant in Bangui which was nearing completion when all the Indian workers had to be evacuated in early 2014 due to security situation in CAR. Efforts are being made to re-start the work. Two other LoCs for US\$ 20 million for Limestone mining and US\$ 39.69 million for two hydroelectric projects are ready for signatures by the Government of CAR.

Chad

PM's Special Envoy, MoS (HRD) visited Chad on 13 & 14 July 2015 to hand over letters of invitation for IAFS-III. Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno visited New Delhi for IAFS-III from 26-30 October 2015. He met with PM. President Idriss Deby was accompanied by a 32-member delegation comprising Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Economy, Commerce and Tourism Development and high-level officials.

Comoros

President Ikililou Dhoinine led the delegation of Comoros at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr. Abdoukarim Mohammed. He held bilateral talks with Prime Minister. Earlier in August 2015, Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Shri Y.S. Chowdary visited Comoros as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to extend the invitation for the Summit. He called on the President Dhoinine and the Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammed.

Minister of Foreign Trade Mr. Mohamed Soilihi attended 4th India Africa Trade Ministers Meet in October 2015.

In July 2015 the 18 Megawatt power project in Moroni, set up under financial assistance from EXIM Bank of India, was inaugurated by Vice President of Comoros Mohamed Ali Soilihi.

Côte d'Ivoire (CI)

The Ivorian delegation to IAFS-III at New Delhi in October 2015 was led by Minister of Industry and Mines in view of the impending presidential elections there on 25 October 2015. Earlier, PM's Special Envoy, MoS (Drinking Water & Sanitation) visited Abidjan from 13-16 July 2015 to personally hand over invitation for IAFS-III. A business delegation coordinated by FICCI visited Abidjan from 25-29 May 2015 on the margins of Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

During the year, work on the GOI supported LoC project for US\$ 42 million for 9.3 MW Kakobola Hydro-Electric Power Project, Bandundu Province is progressing well. The power generation is expected to start in December 2015. Work on GOI supported LoC project of US\$ 250 million for 64 MW Hydro-Electric Power Project is being undertaken in Katende, Kasai Occidental Province. In May 2015, GOI approved two more LOCs for (i) US\$ 34.50 million for Development of Power Distribution Project for evacuation of power generated at Kakobola Hydro-electric Project in Bandundu Province and (ii) US\$ 109.942 million for financing a power transmission and distribution project for the Katende Hydroelectricity power project in Kasai Province for evacuation of electricity.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has increased to US\$ 380.61 million in 2014-2015 from 208.74 million in 2013-2014. 5,000-plus Indian troops, military observers and police personnel are deployed in DRC under the largest UN Peacekeeping operation in DRC known as UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo [MONUSCO]. India continues to provide capacity enhancement support to the country notably under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and ITEC capacity building programmes. DRC has been allotted 30 training slots under the ITEC programme during the year 2015-2016. DRC Foreign Minister attended

and participated in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi from 26-30 October 2015.

Djibouti

Djibouti, a micro-state with a population of less than a million is strategically located at Horn of Africa from the security and trade perspectives. It continues to play an important role in the fight against piracy and Islamic terrorist groups in East Africa. Djibouti-India relations remained cordial and cooperative. This was best expressed in the enormous support extended by Djibouti during Operation Rahat in April 2015, when around 7000 persons, including 5000 Indian nationals, were evacuated from war-torn Yemen through Djibouti's airport and sea port. Djibouti continued to be a pivot in India's anti-piracy naval operations in the Gulf of Aden. 14 Indian naval ships docked in Djibouti for logistics support and replenishment of supplies.

In July 2015, Gen V.K. Singh as special envoy of the Prime Minister invited the Djiboutian President Ismail Omar Guelleh to the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit. President Guelleh attended the Summit in October 2015, accompanied by Foreign Minister, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf. Earlier,

Minister of Economy and Finance, Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh attended the 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers Meeting on 23 October 2015. Minister of Health, Dr. Kassim Issak Ousman was the Guest of Honour in the India Medical Tourism Conference 2015 held in New Delhi on 20-21 November 2015.

India enhanced its developmental assistance to Djibouti by approving an additional LOC of US\$15.13 million through Export-Import Bank of India for upgrading the existing Ali Sabieh Cement Factory built under an Indian LoC of US\$34 million. Djibouti utilized 6 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation training opportunities and 6 Indian Council of Cultural Relations scholarships.

Egypt

India-Egypt relations saw new momentum with high level exchanges and a commitment to further strengthen the partnership. Prime Minister Modi met with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2015. President Sisi participated in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) in October 2015 and met with both the President and



External Affairs Minister calls on President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi in Cairo, Egypt (24 August 2015)

the Prime Minister (PM) of India. They agreed to raise the relationship to a higher level based on the three pillars of closer political-security cooperation, deeper economic engagement and enhanced cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Egypt from 23-25 August 2015 and met President Sisi, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and Arab League Secretary General Nabil ElAraby. Two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on Cooperation in the field of Tourism and on Scientific and Technical Cooperation were signed during her visit.

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi met President Sisi in July 2015 as Special Envoy of PM to extend invitation for IAFS-III. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways visited Egypt in August 2015 for the inauguration ceremony of the New Suez Canal. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs participated in the 25th International Conference of Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs at Luxor in November 2015. Deputy National Security Advisor Dr. Arvind Gupta held talks with Egyptian security and defence officials in Cairo in July 2015.

As agreed in the fifth Joint Defence Cooperation meeting, there was a regular exchange of visits between the defence delegations of the two countries. Indian Naval Ships Tarangini and Trikand undertook port calls at Egyptian ports of Alexandria, Port Said and Safaga and interacted with their counterparts, while on overseas deployment.

Despite global slowdown, India's trade with Egypt increased to reach US\$ 4.8 billion in 2014-15. India's exports to Egypt touched US\$ 3 billion while imports were at US\$ 1.8 billion, making India the 3rd largest destination for Egyptian exports, and the 11th source of imports. Over 50 Indian companies with a total investment touching US\$ 3 billion remained at the core of India's economic engagement. There was regular exchange of business and trade delegations from India including those of PHARMAEXCIL, Indian master craftsmen, Indian Tobacco, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy delegation, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association, and Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council. The 1st meeting of India-Egypt Joint Working Group (JWGs) on Trade, Investment Standardization and Origin Issues held on 5 November 2015 (through Video Conference) and 6-member Indian Scientific

delegation visited Cairo for Biotechnology - A sustainable approach for development workshop in October 2015. The Egypt-India Business Council was reconstituted and met the Indian side on the sidelines of IAFS-III in October 2015. The Indian Business Forum, launched by the Embassy of India, held meetings with Egyptian officials and business partners to promote economic engagement.

Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation and CV Raman Fellowships to Egypt, 100 candidates were nominated. Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarships were availed of for graduate and doctoral studies. The third edition of the 'India by the Nile' (IBN) cultural festival was held in March-April 2015 in Egypt. A number of ICCR sponsored troupes visited Egypt during the period.

The first International Day of Yoga (IDY) in Egypt was held on 21 June 2015 and received an overwhelming response. Over 4,700 Egyptian school children from over 430 different schools participated in the 21st 'Glimpses of India' Painting Competition, held in Cairo and Giza in October 2015. 'India Day' was celebrated in Alexandria in August and Port Said in November 2015, during which 'Glimpses of India' painting competition, cultural programmes and exhibitions were held.

The 11th session of India Egypt Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi on 14 December 2015. The Egyptian side was led by H.E. Ambassador Yasser Mourad, Assistant Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the Indian side was led by Mr. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East). During the meeting the two sides discussed entire gamut of India-Egypt bilateral relations.

Equatorial Guinea

The cordial relations with Equatorial Guinea were further cemented during this period. PM's Special Envoy, MoS (AYUSH) visited Equatorial Guinea from 24-25 August 2015 India to personally deliver the IAFS-III invitation. In his first ever visit to India, President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo led a large delegation to attend IAFS-III held in New Delhi in October 2015. GoI accepted their proposal for opening of a resident mission in New Delhi.

The Equatorial Guinean Minister of Mines, Industry and Energy visited India to participate in the Fourth India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in Delhi from 21-22 January

2016. Using this opportunity, he also participated in the Equatorial Guinea-India Hydrocarbons & Industry Forum held on 22 January 2016 organised by InvestEG.

Eritrea

India has provided development assistance in education and agriculture sector and is assisting in the construction of a Vocational Training Centre. Indian Diaspora in Eritrea is around 1200 (*teachers and workers*).

Foreign Minister Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed led the Eritrean delegation at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He had a bilateral meeting with EAM.

Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Retd.) V K Singh visited Eritrea in September 2015 as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to extend invitation for the Summit. He called on President Isaias Afwerki.

Eritrea, located along the Red Sea on the Horn of Africa, extended close cooperation in the operations conducted for the evacuation of Indians during the conflict in Yemen.

Ethiopia

India and Ethiopia have close political and economic relations that build upon longstanding ancient trading links. Ethiopia is the largest recipient of India's development assistance in Africa (sugar plants, rural electrification, railways). The Indian Diaspora in Ethiopia totals around 6,000 (including a large number of teachers). The Second India-Africa Forum Summit was held in Addis Ababa that hosts the headquarters of the African Union.

There were several high level visits between India and Ethiopia during this period. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, who was re-elected for a second term in September 2015, led the Ethiopian delegation for the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) in New Delhi in October 2015. He held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Modi. Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom was also part of the delegation. Earlier in July, Special Envoy of Prime Minister, Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar visited Addis Ababa to extend the invitation for IAFS-III. He called on the Prime Minister Desalegn and met Foreign Minister Dr. Adhanom.

Other high level visits included the following : Minister of State for Finance, Shri Jayant Sinha who led the Indian

delegation for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which was held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. Shri Sinha had a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Dr. Adhanom. The Ethiopian Minister of Health Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu visited India to attend the 'Call to Action Summit-2015', co-hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare alongwith UN agencies in New Delhi in August 2015. The Ethiopian Minister of Women, Child & Youth Welfare Ms. Zenebu Tadesse Woldetsadik was awarded the First ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award by EAM in December 2015. Ms. Woldetsadik met Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Maneka Gandhi during the visit. The Third India-Ethiopia Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi in May 2015.

A 64-Slice CT Scan Machine was installed at the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, with the assistance of the Government of India. An ICCR-sponsored Rajasthani folk dance troupe performed in Ethiopia in December 2015.

The Gambia

Special Envoy of Prime Minister, MoS for Parliamentary and Minority Affairs visited The Gambia from 12-15 September 2015 to extend a personal invitation to participate in IAFS-III. Vice President of The Gambia Dr. Aja Isatou Njie- Saidy and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mrs. Neneh MacDouall-Gaye attended the Summit. India has over US\$ 200 million worth developmental projects in The Gambia. International Yoga Day was celebrated in Banjul on 21 June 2015. In view of the high utilization of our training and capacity building opportunities by The Gambian people, it has been allotted 35 slots for the year 2015-16. In addition to this, there are capacity building facilities available under India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (30 slots for 2015-16).

Ghana

A 36-member Indian business delegation visited Ghana in April 2015 to explore investment and business opportunities. They had fruitful interaction with local Indian businessmen and representatives of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and the Ghana Chamber of Commerce & industry (GCCCI). Joint Secretary (DPA-I) and Joint Secretary (WA) along with 3 members from Exim Bank visited Accra from 1-4 June 2015 to discuss various LoC projects in Ghana. The first

International Day of Yoga was commemorated in a grand manner on 21 June 2015 in Accra in an event organized by the Indian High Commission. Ghanaian Minister of Power was the Guest of Honour. Ghanaian President, Dr. John Dramani Mahama, led their delegation at IAFS-III held in New Delhi in October 2015. Ten Indian companies participated in 13th Edition of Ghana International Book Fair from 3-7 November 2015. A senior representative from CAPEXIL also attended the Fair. The Sol Group Limited, a UK based Development Company, chose to commission BHEL as the contractor for the project to build a 400 Megawatts capacity power station in the country estimated at \$ 400 million. An MOU was signed by The Sol Group and BHEL in New Delhi. Vice-President Amissah-Arthur met 20-member CII-led Indian business delegation which was in Ghana to explore investment opportunities. Children of overseas Indians gathered in the High Commission on 28 November 2015 and read the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. A teacher from Sikkim Manipal University, Accra explained to them the basic features of the Indian constitution and engaged them in an interactive session.

Gabon

Oil India Ltd. [OIL], in partnership with Indian Oil Ltd., is conducting oil exploration in Shakti Block, Lamberele. So far 44 million barrel 'in-place' oil has been discovered by the OIL. First phase of the project is expected to be completed by January 2017. GOI has extended LOC worth US\$ 67.19 million to rehabilitate and upgrade the broadcasting facilities of Gabon. President of Gabon led a delegation which attended and participated in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi from 26-30 October 2015.

Guinea

President Alpha Condé won his second term by a clear majority in elections held on 11 October 2015. Soon after the election results were announced, he declared his participation in IAFS-III at New Delhi. He led a large delegation including the Foreign Minister, Ministers of Agriculture, Energy and Trade. Earlier, PM's Special Envoy, MoS (Drinking Water & Sanitation) visited Guinea on 12-13 July 2015 to hand over the personal invitation of the Prime Minister for IAFS-III. GoI donated 175 computers, laptops and peripherals to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guinea.

Guinea Bissau

Elections were held in Guinea Bissau. Government of India is engaging with the new government in the process of rebuilding and support. India continues to provide capacity enhancement support to the country especially under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and ITEC capacity building programmes. For 2015-16, 25 slots were allocated for Guinea Bissau. 5 Scholarship slots have been offered to Guinea Bissau under Africa Scholarship Scheme for the academic year 2015-2016. The political unrest, resulting socio-economic hardship and Portuguese being the main language of study, has deterred applicants from Guinea Bissau to utilize the programme. PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Mining and Steel visited Guinea Bissau on 14 September 2015 to hand over the letter of invitation for IAFS-III. President of Guinea Bissau, Mr. José Mario Vaz and Minister of External Relations attended the Summit. International Yoga Day was organized in Bissau on 21 June 2015. Cashew crop accounts for more than 90% of its export earnings. India is a leading export destination for raw cashew kernels.

Kenya

India and Kenya have close economic and Diaspora linkages. India is the largest trading partner for Kenya (US\$ 4 billion). Indian firms have invested in telecommunications, petrochemicals, chemicals, floriculture, banking etc. and have executed engineering contracts in the power and other sectors. India has provided development assistance (*concessional credit*) in the power, agriculture/irrigation sectors. A large number of Kenyans study in India. The Indian origin community in Kenya totals around 100,000.

President Uhuru Kenyatta led the Kenyan delegation at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit. He was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ms. Amina C. Mohamed. President Kenyatta had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister. Earlier in July 2015, Special Envoy of Prime Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Retd.) V K Singh visited Nairobi to extend invitation for the event. He called on President Kenyatta and met Foreign Minister Ms. Amina Mohamed, Defence Minister Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, and Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku.

Among other high level visits, the Minister of ICT of Kenya Fred Matiangi visited India in July 2015 to initiate

collaboration on ICT information and to invite Indian companies to participate in India-Africa ICT Expo held in Nairobi September. He also met Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. Minister of State (IC) for Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation at the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi in December 2015. During the visit she called on President Kenyatta, Deputy President William Ruto, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Dr. Amina Mohamed.

Lesotho

India-Lesotho trade is around US\$ 40 million. Development partnership includes a Line of Credit worth US\$ 9.7 million to Lesotho for various capacity building projects. An IT Centre has been completed. An Indian Army Training Team is based in Lesotho since 2001. There are around 1300 Indian expatriate professionals working in Lesotho.

Prime Minister Dr. Pakalitha Mosisili led the Lesotho delegation to India at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mr. Tlohang Sekhamane and Trade Minister Mr. Joshua Setipa. Prime Minister Mosisili had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tlohang Sekhamane met EAM at the sidelines of the Summit.

Minister of State (IC) for Culture, Tourism & MoS for Civil Aviation Dr. Mahesh Sharma visited Lesotho in July 2015 as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister. He called on the Prime Minister Dr. Mosisili and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Sekhamane.

Liberia

President of Liberia, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf attended IAFS-III at New Delhi leading a large delegation including Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Energy. She also delivered a special lecture at a programme organised by RIS. Earlier, PM's Special Envoy, MoS (Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) delivered the personal invitation from Prime Minister to President Sirleaf on 11 September 2015 at Monrovia.

Libya

The political and security situation in Libya further

deteriorated. The Islamic State in Syria and ash-Sham (ISIS) has further consolidated its hold, especially in the city of Sirte controlling about 200 kms area in the region.

United Nations Security General Special Representative for Libya, Bernardino Leon after months of consultations with various factions of both rival governments in Tripoli and Tobruk presented a draft for the Government of National Accord (GNA) on 8 October 2015. The new UNSG Special Representative, Mr. Martin Kobler, a German national took over from Mr. Leon on 4 November 2015 and he is making efforts to bring the rival sides together and form GNA.

On 29 July 2015, four Indian nationals were abducted at a check point manned by ISIS, 50 kms on the highway leading to Tripoli while they were on their way to India. Two were released on 31 July 2015 and were sent back to India by the Embassy. Another two Indians were abducted on 8 September 2015 from the Ibn Sina compound in Sirte. One of the Indian nationals was released on 30 September 2015 and as of now, out of six Indians abducted, three continue to be in captivity. 11 Indian workers of a local company AEEW were trapped in the stronghold of ISIS in Sirte. Responding to their distress call, the Mission managed to bring them out of Sirte and evacuated them to India 28 April 2015.

The Mission continued to operate from Djerba in Tunisia while maintaining skeletal presence in Tripoli and deputing India-based officials on rotation basis to look after the interests of around 2000 Indian nationals who continue to stay in Libya despite Embassy's repeated advisories urging them to leave the country. The Mission continued to assist the Indian nationals in their evacuation from Libya to India. As on date, out of approximately 6000 Indians, 3699 have been assisted in their evacuation to India from different parts of Libya. Out of this, 1324 have been evacuated on Government of India cost since August 2014.

Madagascar

India-Madagascar development partnership includes lines of credit for supply of farm equipment and to establish fertilizer/pesticide plants; disaster relief and scholarships. The Indian community in Madagascar is around 22,500 including 2,500 NRIs with first settlers having arrived in the 18th century. Indian companies have invested in mining, oil and gas, telecom and health sectors.

President Hery Rajaonarimampianina led the Madagascar delegation at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He had bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister and Malagasy Foreign Minister Mrs. Beatrice Attallah held bilateral discussions with the External Affairs Minister.

Government of India assisted Madagascar by providing a relief fund of US\$ 200,000/- to the flood victims of Chedza cyclone in April 2015. A consignment of indelible ink was also provided in response to the request by the Malagasy government for local and municipal elections in the country in July 2015.

The Embassy of India organized a Trade Promotion Fair in Antananarivo on October 2015. Several business delegations from India participated in the Fair. A Festival of India was organised in Madagascar (September-November 2015).

Malawi

Development partnership includes scholarships, lines of credit (*irrigation, grain storage, tobacco processing, cotton processing, fuel storage and sugar processing*) and grants to supply essential medicines and medical equipment. The Indian origin community in Malawi totals around 7,000.

Foreign Minister Dr. George Chabonda led the Malawi delegation at the Third India Africa Forum Summit. The delegation comprised four other ministers including the Finance Minister Mr. Goodall Gondwe, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources Mr. Alan Chiyembekeza, Minister of Trade and Industry Joseph Mwanamvekha and Minister of Labour and Vocational Training Mr. Henry Amon Robin Mussa.

Foreign Minister Chabonda met EAM. The Minister of Finance Mr. Goodall Gondwe met his counterpart Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The Minister of Trade and Industry Joseph Mwanamvekha met his counterpart Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources Mr. Alan Chiyembekeza met with Minister of Water Resources Ms. Uma Bharti.

Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri G.M Siddeshwara visited Malawi in July 2015 as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to extend invitation for the Summit. He called on President Prof. Arthur Peter

Mutharika. The Foreign Minister of Malawi, Dr. George Chabonda was also present in the meeting.

In August 2015, India provided tractors and farm implements worth US\$ 1 million. In July 2015, India provided essential medicines and drugs worth US\$ 1 million. India also provided US\$ 250,000 towards flood relief.

Mali

PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Steel & Mines visited Mali in August 2015 to extend an invitation to the Malian President for IAFS-III. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita accompanied Ministers for Foreign Affairs; Economy & Finance; Information & Spokesperson of the Government; Commerce & Industry; Energy & Water; and Mines, visited India to attend IAFS-III in New Delhi from 26-29 October 2015.

Mauritania

PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Steel & Mines visited Mauritania in August 2015 as to extend an invitation to the President of Mauritania for IAFS-III. President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, accompanied by his Ministers for Foreign Affairs & Cooperation, and Economy & Development, visited India to attend IAFS-III in October 2015. Apart from direct bilateral assistance, Mauritania is entitled to Indian assistance through NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and through IAFS-I & II initiatives. The number of training slots under ITEC offered to Mauritania during the year 2015-16 is 15. Other scholarships offered to Mauritania are under various initiatives of the India-Africa Forum Summits [e.g. Offer of English Language Training Centre, Human Settlement Centre, and a Farm Science Centre in Mauritania]; agricultural scholarships through the African Union (AU), and ICCR Scholarship for the African Countries. The Pan-African e-Network project is operational in Mauritania.

Morocco

Relations between Morocco and India are historical, warm and cordial and continued to grow in 2015-16. The highlight of the year was the visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to attend 3rd India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) on 29 October 2015, along with a 400-member delegation, which also included the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Salaheddine Mazouar. His Majesty King Mohammed VI

also held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi where they agreed to intensify the cooperation between both sides in various sectors and decided to set up a high level commission in this regard.

During the period, visit to Morocco was undertaken by the following dignitaries/officials:

(i) Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Special Envoy of the PM to extend invitation to H.E. King Mohammed VI for participation in IAFS-III in New Delhi in October 2015; (ii) Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) & Director General (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) participated in the 56th meeting of the Board of Trustees of International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas in May 2015; (iii) Additional Secretary from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change attended Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Forum in October 2015; (iv) Joint Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs and Deputy Inspector General, Border Security Force attended the Inaugural Conference of UNCCT-GCTF Border Security Initiative in July 2015; (v) Director General from Railway Protection Force attended the 5th International Conference on Railway Security, organized by the UIC in October 2015; (vi) Additional Director (FIU), Ministry of Finance attended Train and Trainer Course for Strategic Analysis in October 2015; (vii) Programme Officer (Statistics) & Programme Officer (ART), National AIDS Control Organization, Department of Health & Family Welfare participated in the Global HIV Cascade workshop-measuring and tracking people in November 2015; (viii) Executive Director Finance (Expenditure) and Executive Director (PSU & High Speed), Railway Board, undertook pre-feasibility study of the High-speed Railway Function w.r.t Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar High Speed Rail Corridor.

A Capacity Development Programme in International Business was conducted by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi from 6-10 July 2015 in Casablanca, Morocco, in association with ISCAE Casablanca, which was attended by more than 50 participants. The First International Day of Yoga on 21 May 2015 was celebrated in Morocco with well-attended Yoga demonstrations held in six major cities, namely, Rabat, Casablanca, Marrakech, Tangier, Agadir and Meknes. A total of 1105 people took part in the event. A Memorandum of Understanding on Exemption from visa

requirements for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service passports was signed in New Delhi in November, 2015.

Bilateral trade between Morocco and India touched US\$ 575.9 million during the first quarter of 2015. The exports from India to Morocco were US\$ 186.6 million and imports from Morocco to India were US\$ 389.3 million.

Mozambique

India is the fourth largest investor (*natural gas and coal*) in Mozambique. Trade has multiplied five times in the last five years (*US\$ 2.4 billion in 2014-15*). Indian private companies are also active in coal, infrastructure, automotive and farming sectors. There are 20,000 people of Indian origin in Mozambique besides around 1,500 NRIs. Utilisation of the US\$ 500 million Line of Credit offered is ongoing (*identified for power supply, solar equipment, food security, rural drinking water, housing and road construction*). Lines of Credit of US\$ 140 million offered earlier, have been implemented successfully (*rural electrification, drinking water supply and a Technology Development and Innovation Centre*).

2015 marked the 40th year of independence of Mozambique as well as the 40th anniversary of India-Mozambique diplomatic relations. The anniversary was marked by the State Visit of President Nyusi of Mozambique to India (4-7 August 2015). He was accompanied by his wife Dr. Isaura Nyusi and four ministers (*Foreign Affairs, Minerals & Energy, Agriculture and Transport & Communications*). He held delegation level talks with Prime Minister. An MoU on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy and another on Visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and official passport holders were exchanged during the visit. Mozambique has also been included in the e-tourist visa scheme of India recently. President Nyusi displayed great personal warmth towards India, having studied in Ahmedabad for four months in 2003 while pursuing a course for executives at the Indian Institute of Management. He addressed the IIM besides business events in New Delhi and Ahmedabad. Prime Minister, in his remarks to the media, affirmed that '*Africa and the Indian Ocean are among the highest priorities for our foreign policy. Mozambique is crucial for both*'.

Prime Minister Carlos Rosario led the Mozambican delegation at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. The delegation included Minister of Industry and Commerce Max Tonela. Prime Minister

Rosario met with our Prime Minister on the sidelines of the Summit. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Rtd) VK Singh visited Maputo in July 2015 and called on Mozambican Foreign Minister Oldemiro Baloi to extend invitations for Summit. Earlier in April 2015, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Mozambique and met with his counterpart Minister Pedro Couto. He also met with Foreign Minister Oldemiro Baloi and called on Prime Minister Carlos Rosario.

The 4th Edition of 'Namaskar Africa', a joint initiative of the FICCI and Government of India, was held in Maputo in November 2015. The Indian delegation comprised of over 70 Indian businessmen and led by Shri Anup Wadhawan, Director General of Foreign Trade. An ICCR sponsored Goan group 'Kepamchim Kirnnam' visited Maputo in July 2015 to render a music and dance performance to mark the 40 years of establishment of India-Mozambique diplomatic relations.

Namibia

India and Namibia have longstanding close political ties. India actively supported the liberation struggle in Namibia, allowing SWAPO to maintain an Office in New Delhi before Namibia's independence in 1990. Lt. Gen. Prem Chand commanded the force under the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). The development assistance programmes in recent years have included capacity building in ICT and defence. There is a small Indian origin community in Namibia.

President of Namibia Dr. Hage G. Geingob, accompanied by First Lady, participated at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. President Geingob met the Prime Minister. The delegation also included four ministers including the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms. Netumo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Economic Planning in the Presidency Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy Obeth Kandjoze and Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry John Mutorwa. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation met with Hon'ble EAM. Minister of Mines and Energy met with Minister for Steel and Mines Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. Minister of Mines and Energy and Minister for Agriculture, Water and Forestry also met Minister of State (Atomic Energy and Space) Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Earlier in August 2015 Minister of State (Information & Broadcasting) Col. Rayavardhan Singh Rathore (Retd) visited Namibia as Special Envoy of Prime Minister and called on Vice President Dr. Niceky Iyambo to hand over the invitation for the Summit. He also met Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Peya Mushelenga.

The Founding President of Namibia, Dr. Sam Nujoma visited India in November 2015 under the Distinguished Visitors Program of the ICCR. He was accompanied by Vice Chancellor, University of Namibia Professor Lazarus Hangula and other officials. He met with the Vice President.

Niger

PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises visited Niger from 8-10 July 2015 to deliver letters of invitation for IAFS-III to Nigerien dignitaries. Under its aid programme, GoI supplied on 30 September 2015, ten laptops to the Office of Director General Radio Broadcasting and Television of Niger. Nigerien Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Private Sector participated in the 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi on 23 October 2015. President Issoufou Mahamadou attended IAFS-III in New Delhi from 26-30 October 2015. He was accompanied by six Ministers, one Deputy Minister and many senior officials.

Nigeria

The Indian Mission participated at the 36th Kaduna International Trade Fair held at Kaduna from 25 April-3 May 2015. Various Indian companies displayed their products at the fair including Bajaj, Tata, Simba and Java Int'l. In coordination with local Indian doctors, Indian High Commission also organized 'free medical camps' during the event. MoS (IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Abuja on 28 & 29 May 2015 to represent GoI at the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected President Muhammadu Buhari. MoS (IC), besides attending the inauguration ceremony, also called on President Buhari and handed over invitation from the Prime Minister to attend IAFS-III Summit. On 21 June 2015, International Yoga day was celebrated at HCI, Abuja premises. Around 200 people including Indian community and local Nigerians participated in the event. Similar event was organized at HCI Office in Lagos with over 250 participants despite inclement weather. A 15-member Composite Indian Defence Industry delegation comprising of HAL, Defence

Shipyards, OFB, BEL and private industry representatives visited Nigeria from 6-8 July 2015 to jointly work out areas of mutual collaboration. A three member Nigerian delegation visited Army Aviation Establishments from 27-31 July 2015. A 6-member Nigerian defence delegation headed by Director, Joint Services, Ministry of Defence visited India to attend the 3rd India-Nigeria Joint Defence Cooperation Committee(JDCC) Meeting held in New Delhi from 10-11 August 2015. In association with the Indian Mission and supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI, CII organized “The India Show” in Lagos on 25-27 August 2015. Over 100 Indian companies participated in the event showcasing their products looking for trade and investment opportunities in Nigeria. Indian Mission participated at the 36th Kano International Trade Fair from 18 November-2 December 2015. A Rajasthani folk dance troupe sponsored by ICCR visited Nigeria from 17-21 September 2015. During the visit, the troupe gave performances in Lagos, Abuja and Kano cities of Nigeria. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari visited New Delhi to attend IAFS-III from 26-30 October 2015. He was accompanied by a 121-member delegation consisting of Governors of Kano State, Delta State, National Security Adviser (NSA) besides other officials. The Indian Mission celebrated ITEC Day on 5 November 2015. The event was attended by a large number of Nigerians ITEC alumni besides other dignitaries including Chief of Staff of Governor of Katsina state, officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Planning Commission, and other Ministries. Mr. Aminu Bello Mesari, Governor of Katsina State visited India from 11-13 November 2015 at the invitation of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd in connection with purchase of tractors from them. Indian High Commissioner hosted a dinner reception on 11 December 2015 for the Nigerian and Indian retired and serving officers of the Armed Forces who are Alumni of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

At the invitation of the Nigerian Navy, a senior Indian Navy delegation visited Abuja, Nigeria from 26-28 January 2016 for discussions in the field of Hydrographic Cooperation, Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Special Forces training, Anti-Piracy and Maritime dialogue. A senior Nigerian Army delegation visited United Services Institute, New Delhi from 25-29 January 2016 for a study visit in order to establish a Nigerian Army Resource Centre (NARC) at Abuja, Nigeria. An exploratory Nigerian Naval

delegation visited Goa Shipyard Ltd. from 4 - 8 February 2016. Indian Mission in Abuja participated in the Kaduna International Trade Fair from 26 February – 6 March 2015 by displaying products and catalogues of Indian companies in Nigeria. A Free Medical Camp was also run with the assistance of the local Indian doctors during the trade fair days.

Republic of Congo (ROC)

The work on the first GoI Line of Credit of US\$ 70 million from EXIM-Bank for rural electrification project is progressing well. In 2014 GoI approved a LoC of US\$ 89.9 million for the Development of Transportation System in capital Brazzaville and Pointe Noire and another LoC for US\$ 55 million for a Greenfield 600 tpd rotary kiln based Cement Plant Project. Work on these two LoCs is under progress. Under India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-II), ROC has been offered setting up of a Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) work is progressing well. Bilateral trade between the two countries has risen sharply from US\$ 306.53 million in 2013-2014 to US\$ 618.41 million in 2014-2015. President Mr. Denis Sassou N’guesso announced that presidential election would be held in March 2016.

Rwanda

India-Rwanda trade is US\$ 88 million. Development partnership projects include infrastructure projects under lines of credit, capacity building and scholarships. The Indian Diaspora in Rwanda number around 1,500.

Prime Minister Anastase Murekezi led the delegation of Rwanda at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He had a meeting with Prime Minister on the sidelines of the Summit. In July 2015 Minister of State for Rural Development Shri Sudarshan Bhagat visited Rwanda as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to extend invitation for the Summit. He met the Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Louise Mishikiwabo.

A 28 MW Hydel power plant built under concessional credit (US\$ 80 million) was inaugurated in 2015. A Vocational Training Centre under IAFS has been commissioned.

Sao Tome & Principe

MoS (AYUSH) visited Sao Tome & Principe from 27-28 August 2015 as PM’s Special Envoy to deliver the invitation

for the IAFS-III. Prime Minister Mr. Patrice Emery Trovoadala led the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe to the Third IAFS held in New Delhi in October 2015. During his visit, he also had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India.

Senegal

PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Agriculture visited Senegal from 8-11 July 2015 to hand over the letter of invitation to the Senegalese leadership for IAFS-III. President Macky Sall attended the India Africa Forum Summit III in his capacity as President of Senegal and also as Chairperson of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee. He was accompanied by the Senegalese Foreign Minister. Senegal organized a Road Show to attract investment from India in the run-up to the Summit. International Yoga Day was organized in Dakar on 21 June 2015. Yoga teachers and their students, representatives of the Government of Senegal, famous celebrities, diplomats and members of Indian community and locals attended the event. Famous Senegalese actor Mr. Papa Faye, noted actresses Josephine Zambo and Rokhya Niang were present at the event. India has interests in Industries Chimique du Senegal (ICS): ICS is the flagship company in Senegal which manufactures phosphoric acid from the rock phosphate, available in plenty in Senegal. Phosphoric Acid, being an important ingredient for fertilizers, is contributing to Indian food security. Jindal Steel and Power Limited is to set up a 350 MW Thermal power station in Kayar near Dakar at a cost of approximately US\$ 800 million. The power purchase agreement was signed between SENELEC (Senegalese National Electricity Utility) and Jindal Steel and Power Limited in February 2015. Jindal is proceeding further for the financial closure of the project. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, a PSU is supplying equipment for another power project in Sendou in Senegal. India continues to provide capacity building training opportunities to Senegal and for the financial year 2015-16, 20 slots were available out of which 10 slots were utilized. 10 Scholarship slots have been offered to Senegal under Africa Scholarship Scheme for the academic year 2015-16 and under this category, 3 scholars went to study in India. French being the medium of instruction in Senegal creates handicaps for Senegalese scholars in pursuing English language courses in India. The total developmental assistance portfolio in respect

of Senegal is approx US\$ 300 million. The projects under various stages of implementation include line of Credit of US\$ 62.95 million for the first phase of Lift Irrigation for Rice Self Sufficiency Programme, US\$ 27.5 million for the 2nd phase of Rural Electrification Project, US\$ 19 million for the 2nd phase of the fisheries development project, US\$ 41.96 million for setting up a Modern Abattoir, Meat Processing, Cold Storage, Rendering and Tannery Plant and Market Place, US\$ 26 million for public transportation etc. Barefoot College is proceeding further for the establishment of a Vocation Training Centre with Tostan, Senegal implementing the IAFS II decision. Hub Station of the satellite based PAN Africa E-network, the telemedicine and tele-education programmes being relayed to all African nations, is located in Senegal. Fann Hospital in Dakar was designated as the Regional Super Specialty Regional Hospital by the AU and approved by the Ministry of External Affairs. Equipment for Patient End Location (PEL) facility is already functional and operative. Bilateral trade for the year 2014-15 stood at US\$ 726.88 million with exports from India of US\$ 518.75 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 208.13 million.

The Senegalese Minister of Energy and Renewable Energy Development led a Senegalese delegation for the India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in New Delhi from 21-22 January 2016.

Sierra Leone

International Day of Yoga was organized by the Indian Honorary Consulate of India in Freetown. Sierra Leonean Minister of Sports was the Chief Guest. Around 100 people attended the event. PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Drinking Water and Sanitation visited Sierra Leone on 16 July 2015 to hand over PM's letter of invitation for IAFS-III. President Bai Koroma led the Sierra Leone delegation to 3rd IAFS and was accompanied by the Foreign Minister. Acting Minister of Trade and Industry attended India- Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting on October 23 2015. Indian power sector delegation led by Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and representative from Central Electricity Authority (CEA), NTPC, NHPC, Power Grid Corporation of India and Solar Energy Corporation of India visited Sierra Leone from 9-12 December 2015 to develop an energy blue-print for Sierra Leone.

Somalia

India's political relations with Somalia continue to be cordial as the country attempts to stabilize after more than two decades of Civil War and ensuing anarchy. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud led the Somali delegation for the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) in New Delhi 26-29 October 2015, during which he had a bilateral meeting with PM. Somali Foreign Minister Abdisalaan Hadliye Omar was also part of the delegation and he had a bilateral meeting with EAM during the event. Later, the Somali President paid a visit to Bhopal where he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by the Barkatullah University, his alma mater where he had done his M.Ed. from 1986-88. Earlier, Minister of State(VKS) had visited Mogadishu in July 2015 to invite President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for IAFS-III.

New High Commissioner of India (HCI) in Nairobi, Ms. Suchitra Durai, paid a visit to Somalia, her concurrently accredited Ambassadorial assignment, on 14-15 November 2015, and presented credentials to Somali President. Somali Commerce & Industry Minister, Abdirahman Abdi Osman, led a 3-member delegation for the 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers' meeting held on 23 October 2015. High Commission of India Nairobi represented India at the second High Level Partnership Forum (HLPF) on Somalia, held on 29-30 July 2015 in Mogadishu. Delegations from 32 countries participated in the deliberation which was co-Chaired by the Somali President and UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (UNSRSG) for Somalia, Nicholas Kay. As India's aid to Somalia, Foreign Service Institute (FSI) organized a training programme for 20 Somali junior Diplomats in October 2015.

The 11 crew members, including an Indian Mr. Aman Kumar, of the hijacked Malaysian-owned cargo vessel MV Albedo, held hostage since November 2010, were released by the Somali pirates and arrived in Nairobi on 7 June 2015. During the period, 11 Somali nationals were awarded Indian Council of Cultural Relations scholarships.

South Africa

India and South Africa have longstanding close political, Diaspora and economic linkages. The Indian origin community is estimated at around 1.5 million (*largest*

anywhere in the world). Gandhiji started his political activism in South Africa and constituted Natal Indian Congress in 1894. India was at the forefront of anti-apartheid movement at international level during 1960s-1980s. India broke diplomatic relations with South Africa in 1961 and re-established diplomatic relations with South Africa in 1994. Bilateral trade is nearly US\$ 12 billion. India and South Africa also collaborate closely at various multilateral fora including the BRICS, IBSA and Climate Change negotiations.

The extensive bilateral engagement continued during this period. This included a series of high level visits on both sides. President Zuma led the South African delegation at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in October 2015 and was accompanied by Foreign Minister Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. President Zuma met Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mashabane had a meeting with EAM on the sidelines of the Summit.

Earlier in May 2015 Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Durban to co-chair with South Africa's Foreign Minister Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane the 9th Session of India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission. During the visit she called on President Jacob Zuma and extended the invitation for IAFS-III. The Joint Ministerial Commission decided to create a Joint Working Group for promotion of bilateral trade and investment and initiating talks on India-South Africa Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Prime Minister and President Zuma also met on the sidelines of 7th BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia in July 2015 and UNFCCC COP-21 meeting in Paris in November 2015.

South Africa's Home Minister Mr. Malusi Gigaba visited India in July 2015. He met with Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh. The Premier of Gauteng Province Mr. David Makhura visited India in April 2015 and met Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The Premier of Western Cape Province Ms. Helen Zille visited India in November 2015 and met Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr. Devendra Fadnavis. The Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha visited South Africa in July 2015. He met with his counterpart Lt Gen FZ Msimang and Secretary of Defence South Africa Dr Sam Makhudu Gulube.

Several Indian business delegations visited South Africa during this period to participate in various business events.

These included : the African Utility Week (May 2015) where the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturing Association coordinated the visit of a 10 companies' delegation; the Africa Health Trade Fair in May 2015 where a delegation led by the Engineering Exports Promotion Council participated; SAITEX (trade fair) in June 2015 where the Minister for Food and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Bihar, Shri Shyam Rajak led an Indian business delegation; DECOREX Fair in August 2015 where an Indian delegation constituting Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, Carpet Export Promotion Council and Coir Board participated; Bauma Expo in September 2015 where a CII-led business delegation participated.

A life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled in Rustenburg city of South Africa in September 2015 by High Commissioner to mark the 100th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India. Several ICCR-sponsored performances were organised in South Africa during this period.

South Sudan

The political security situation continues to remain fragile on account of the ongoing political and ethnic war in the country between the forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and erstwhile Vice President Dr Riek Machar. Country faces threats of famine and hunger deaths owing to ongoing warfare. Despite series of peace agreements signed between the warring factions under the mediation of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) countries and International organizations, the latest being the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in August 2015, the ground implementation remains major problem with lack of trust on both sides.

President Salva Kiir led South Sudanese delegation to the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) in New Delhi, 26-29 October 2015. Pres Kiir held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister (PM), and South Sudanese Foreign Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin held bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister on the sidelines of the Summit. Earlier, Minister of State(VKS) visited Juba as Special Envoy of PM in July 2015 to invite the South Sudanese leadership for visit to India for IAFS-III.

More than 2,200 Indian troops remain deployed with UN

Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Despite loss of seven Indian soldiers in 2013, India remains committed to its mandate. The internal conflict in the country has led to the complete shutdown of oil production in areas under the operation of Indian company ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) and its consortium partners in South Sudan.

Sudan

The traditional and multi-faceted relationship between India and Sudan deepened and expanded further during the year. President Omar Hasan Ahmad EL-Bashir and Foreign Minister Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour of Sudan visited India to participate in 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held at New Delhi from 26-29 October 2015. Bilateral meetings between President Bashir and the Prime Minister of India, as well as Foreign Minister Ghandour and External Affairs Minister were held at the sidelines of the IAFS-III. Before that, Minister of State(VKS) had visited Khartoum on 19 September 2015 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to hand over the invitations for IAFS-III.

A 4-member delegation led by Dy. National Security Adviser Dr. Arvind Gupta visited Khartoum from 28-31 July 2015 and held discussions with Sudanese intelligence and security agencies for cooperation in the field of security and counter-terrorist related matters. He also met with Speaker of Sudan's National Assembly, Interior Minister, Minister of Finance and Economy, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs during the visit. A three member delegation led by Sudanese Minister of State for Trade Mr. Elsadig M Ali visited India and participated in the 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers Meeting held in New Delhi on 23 October 2015.

An Indian Education Exhibition was held in Khartoum from 13-14 June 2015 in which 7 Indian Institutions/Universities participated. Later, a seven member delegation from Sudan participated in *Advantage Health Care-India 2015* - an International Summit on Medical Value Travel to India, held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 5-7 October 2015. After a long gap, a 12-member Cultural Troupe from Indian Council for Cultural Relations visited Sudan in cooperation with Ministry of Culture of Sudan, and performed at Omdurman (sister city of Khartoum) and Port Sudan in November 2015.

A Defence Wing with resident Defence Attaché has started functioning in Indian Embassy from November 2015.

Swaziland

Two projects (*an IT Park and Agriculture mechanisation*) are currently under implementation in Swaziland financed by concessional credit worth US\$ 60 million offered by India. The Indian community in Swaziland totals around 800. They include businesspersons and professionals working in government, hospitals and education sectors.

H.M. King Mswati-III of Swaziland led the delegation of his country at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation Chief Mgwagma Gamedze, and Minister of Economic Planning & Development Prince Hlangusemphi Dlamini.

Earlier in July 2015 Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Dr. Mahesh Sharma visited Swaziland to extend the invitation for the Summit.

Tanzania

India's engagement with Tanzania is built upon close relationship among the leadership, longstanding solidarity on regional and global issues, development assistance and diaspora links. India, with a large diaspora (*50,000 PIOs and 10,000 NRIs*) has a significant presence in Tanzania. India is the largest trading partner for Tanzania with a trade volume of around US\$ 4 billion. India is among the top three investors (*around US\$ 3 billion*) mainly in the fields of automotive, telecom and agriculture related sectors. India's development assistance to Tanzania includes scholarships and training, lines of credit worth around US\$ 250 million.

The close India-Tanzania ties were further strengthened with the first State Visit of President Jakaya M. Kikwete to India in June 2015 and held talks with President and delegation level talks with Prime Minister. Vice-President, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J P Nadda and Minister of MSME Shri Kalraj Mishra called on the Tanzanian President. The deliberations at the leadership level provided a push to cooperation in the areas of agriculture, maritime security, counter-terrorism, development cooperation and economic and business linkages. Six MoUs were signed. Besides the MoU on Hydrography, these included a Line of Credit for

US\$ 268.35 million for extension of Lake Victoria pipeline project, alongwith an MoU with WAPCOS to conduct a detailed DPR for the above project. Another LoC of US\$ 92 million was announced for rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar. Two MoUs are on cooperation in the field of statistics. navigational charts for the ports of Dar-es-Salaam and Zanzibar were formally presented to the Tanzanian side during the ceremony. Prime Minister also announced the extension of the e-tourist visa scheme to Tanzania in the next phase to facilitate travel to India for medical emergencies and tourism. The NSIC will set up incubation centres in Tanzania under a US\$ 2 million grant. C-DAC will work to upgrade the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science & Technology alongwith the gift of a Param supercomputer under a US\$ 1.3 million grant. President Kikwete also held business meetings, with the main focus to attract Indian investment and expertise in agriculture mechanisation (*tractors manufacture*), healthcare (*hospitals*), infrastructure (*metro projects*) among others.

Vice-President Dr. Mohammed Gharib Bilal led the Tanzanian delegation at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister. Earlier Special Envoy of Prime Minister, Minister of State for Skill Development and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited Tanzania in September 2015 to extend invitation to Tanzanian leadership for the event. During the visit, Shri Rudy called on President Kikwete.

John Pombe Joseph Magufuli was elected President of Tanzania following the elections held in October 2015. Dr. Augustine Mahiga was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional & International Cooperation.

Togo

The Indian Honorary Consulate in Lomé organized a function at Agora Senghor Complex with Culture Minister as Chief Guest, to celebrate the International Day of Yoga. Around 130 people attended the event. PM's Special Envoy, MoS for Agriculture visited Togo on 7 July 2015 to hand over the IAFS-III letter of invitation to the Togolese leadership. Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration led Togolese delegation for IAFS-III. Minister of Trade, Industry, Private Sector promotion and Tourism attended the India - Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting on 23 October 2015

Tunisia

India has traditionally maintained cordial and friendly relations with Tunisia since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1958. The post-Revolution elected governments of Tunisia have worked more to establish closer ties with India than either of their pre-revolution regimes. This resulted in significant benefit to Indian companies, notably in automobiles, defence and security equipment. Tunisia has been a reliable source for phosphates. India, on the other hand, exports a wide range of products. Significant among them are Knocked-Down Kits, Automobiles, Electrical Items, Cotton, Mechanical Engines, Organic Chemical Products, Rubber, Rice, Coffee/Spices etc. The annual bilateral trade during 2014 was worth US\$ 432.37 million. The bilateral trade during the first half of 2015 is US\$ 161 million. It includes Indian exports worth \$ 132 million and Indian imports worth \$ 29 million. Tunisia-India Fertilizer SA (TIFERT) is a joint venture company, worth US\$450 million with a capacity to produce 360,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid per annum, which was made operational in 2013. Two Indian companies, Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd and the Gujarat State Fertilizers Ltd, own 30% equity in the company. Indian companies, M/s KEC International Ltd and Jyoti Structures Ltd, are in Tunisia since several years putting up electric transmission lines. An assembly plant of Mahindra pickup trucks is operational in Tunisia since October 2013, which is selling more than 1200 vehicles per year with a target to produce up to 2500 per year. M/s TATA Motors have commenced production of pick-up trucks with Tunisian companies 'Le Moteur' and 'Icar' in June 2015. Dabur has a toothpaste manufacturing project worth around US\$ 7 million.

Sheikh Rashid Ghannouchi, President of Ennahda Party of Tunisia (the second largest party and coalition partner in the government), visited India from 5-8 April 2015 as a guest of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. He met with Hon'ble Vice President and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister (EAM), and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

An Indian cultural group 'Lok Rang', performers of Bhangra dance, visited Tunisia from 26-27 April 2015 and staged three performances at several places. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) headed the Indian delegation for the third round of Foreign Office Consultations on 30 April 2015. A large group session of Yoga was held for the first time

ever in Tunis on 21 June 2015, the first International Day of Yoga. The 2nd Session of the Joint Working Group on Information & Communication Technology was held on 29 June 2015 in New Delhi. Both sides agreed on cooperation in IT-ITeS & Electronics manufacturing sector, exchange of best practices in digital India initiatives, e-governance, and digital economy and in Technoparks between the respective agencies.

Mr. Taieb Baccouche, Foreign Minister of Tunisia led the Tunisian delegation to India to attend the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit. He met with Hon'ble EAM. EAM extended her congratulations to Tunisia for the Nobel Peace Prize won by Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet. Mr. Taieb Baccouche had a tête-à-tête with Prime Minister Modi.

Cooperation under India-Africa Forum Summit has been initiated between the Institute Pasteur of Tunis and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) of New Delhi. Under the CV Raman Fellowship, Tunisian scholars avail of the fellowships every year for research in India. Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme, about 50-60 Tunisian candidates undergo training courses in India.

The last leg of the ICCR sponsored exhibition 'Monuments of India' and 'Islamic Monuments of India' was held in Kairouan city from 5-12 December 2015.

The 6th meeting of Joint Working Group on Drugs & Pharmaceutical took place in Tunis on 18-20 January 2016.

Participation of Tunisian artists sponsored by Tunisian Ministry of Tourism in the Surajkund International Mela held in February 2016.

Uganda

India-Uganda links date back to the colonial times when Indian workers were engaged in the construction of the railways from Mombasa port to Uganda. India-Uganda trade is US\$ 590 million. Today Indian Diaspora numbers around 27,000.

President Yoweri Museveni led the Ugandan delegation at the Third India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. He was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Sam Kutesa. President Museveni had a bilateral meeting with our PM. In July 2015 Minister of State for

Rural development Shri Sudarshan Bhagat visited Uganda as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to extend invitation for the Summit.

In September 2015 President Museveni had a transit halt in Kolkata where Secretary (M&ER) called on him to discuss UN reform related issues. Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa served as the President of UN General Assembly for the 69th session.

Zambia

India and Zambia have considerable economic linkages. India-Zambia is around US\$ 650 million. India's investments is estimated at around US\$ 3 billion (banking, mining and minerals, telecommunication etc.). The Indian origin community in Zambia is around 13,000.

Vice-President Ms. Inonge W Wina led the Zambian delegation at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. She was accompanied by Agriculture Minister Mr. Given Lubinda, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Rayford Mbulu, and Deputy Health Minister Dr. Chitalu Chilufa. Vice President Mrs. Inonge met with Prime Minister. Deputy Health Minister Dr. Chilufa and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Mbulu also called on Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. J.P. Nadda. Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises Shri G.M. Siddeshwara, visited Zambia in July 2015 as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to extend invitation for Summit. An 8-member Zambian Traditional Mask Dance Troupe 'Chota Cultural Group' performed at Rashtrapati Bhawan during Summit.

Ms. Margaret M. Mwanakatwe, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry represented Zambia at the 4th India-Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting in Delhi in October 2015. Earlier in the year, Deputy Health Minister Dr. Chilufa led the Zambia delegation at the India-Africa Health Forum 2015 held in New Delhi in April 2015. The event was organized by CII, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and MEA. He also met Health Secretary.

President Edgar Chagwa Lungu was elected in January 2015 in a Presidential bye-election following the death in office of President Sata in October 2014.

India attended the 35th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of COMESA held in Lusaka in December 2015. Earlier in June 2015 SADC, EAC and COMESA launched a Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) in Egypt.

Zimbabwe

India-Zimbabwe development partnership includes scholarships, other capacity building efforts and concessional credit in water supply and power sectors. Bilateral trade is worth US\$ 170 million. Indian Diaspora in Zimbabwe is around 9,000.

Zimbabwe held the Presidency of the African Union during the period. India and Zimbabwe co-chaired the meetings under the Third India Africa Forum Summit format (Senior Officials, Ministerial and Summit Plenary). President Robert Mugabe led the Zimbabwean delegation at the Summit and co-chaired the Plenary. He was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Simbarashe Mumbengegwi. President Mugabe met with Prime Minister. Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe met EAM. Earlier in August 2015 Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Col. Rajyawardhan Singh Rathore (Retd.) visited Zimbabwe in August 2015 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister and extended the invitation for the Summit.

Zimbabwe's Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development Dr. Joseph Wade visited India in December 2015 to attend EIMA AGRIMACH India 2015 in New Delhi held at PUSA Institute.

A line of credit agreement (US\$ 87 million) for renovation/upgradation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant was signed in October 2015. The Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) supplied mining equipments under an EXIM Bank's Buyer's Credit Scheme in June 19 2015. Ashok Leyland supplied 650 vehicles under another Buyer's Credit Scheme of the EXIM Bank in October 2015

India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

India's relationship with the African continent came into full focus at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit IAFS-III (26-29 October 2015 New Delhi). The event, organized at an unprecedented scale, was an unqualified success in terms of the high level participation of invitees, the logistical preparations, the Summit outcomes and deliberations at the bilateral meetings. The first two Summits were held in 2008 in New Delhi and Addis Ababa in 2011.

In a first ever, all 54 African countries, with whom India has diplomatic relations were invited and all of them participated. 41 of these were represented at HoS/HoG levels, which is a record in terms of any event hosted by India so far.



Prime Minister of Mozambique H.E Mr. Carlos Agostinho do Rosario being received by Minister of State for External Affairs on his arrival in New Delhi (28 October 2015)



Group Photo during Inaugural Session of India Africa Forum Summit 2015 in New Delhi (29 October, 2015)



Cultural Programme during Inaugural Session of India Africa Forum Summit



Prime Minister addressing the Inaugural Session of India Africa Forum Summit 2015 in New Delhi (29 October, 2015)



Indian and African Excellencies at the Concluding Ceremony of the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi (29 October, 2015)



The President of India, with Heads of Delegation and spouses, at the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit, Rashtrapati Bhavan (29 October, 2015)

Besides the Summit deliberations the event provided opportunity for 41 bilateral meetings with the PM and 31 with EAM. Earlier, in a gesture of unprecedented scale, 16 Ministers of State visited 49 African countries as Special Envoys of Prime Minister to personally extend invitations for IAFS-III.

In the lead-up to the IAFS-III several business, academic, media and cultural events were organized. The Ministry of Commerce hosted a meeting of the India-Africa Trade Ministers a week before the IAFS-III.

The Summit was held in a landmark year that marks the 70th anniversary of the UN, the adoption by the African Union (AU) of Agenda 2063 in June 2015, the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015, the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the UNGA in September 2015 and the COP21 of UNFCCC that finalised the post 2020 agreement on Climate Change and the WTO Ministerial that followed also in Africa in Nairobi both in December 2015. All these provided an important context to the IAFS-III in terms of the important global issues, where India and Africa continue to coordinate positions.

Since the start of the structured engagement with the AU through the IAFS-I in 2008, India has extended 40,000 scholarships to Africa that offered 300 training programmes at 60 institutions plus higher education at Universities. The specialized trainings were offered in IT, renewable energy, agriculture, marine & aeronautical engineering, marine hydrography, SME entrepreneurship, rural development, parliamentary affairs, logistics and management, climate change adaptation, disaster management, cyber security, forensic sciences, and defence and security, among others.

India has offered US\$ 9 billion concessional credit in the last decade (US\$ 7.4 billion since IAFS-I in 2008). Of this, projects worth US\$ 6.9 billion had been approved by the time of IAFS-III. These include 114 projects across 40 countries (mainly in sectors such as Power generation and distribution, water supply and irrigation, agriculture, light manufacturing, renewable energy, and construction of infrastructure). Since IAFS-I, grants worth US\$ 1.2 billion have also been approved primarily for capacity building through setting up of institutions in specialized fields at regional and pan-African levels.

PM, in his inaugural speech, spoke extensively about the positive contributions by Africa and the complementarities

between India and Africa. He announced the doubling of scholarships to 50,000 for African nationals over and an additional offer of US\$ 10 billion as concessional credit over the next five years. He also announced a grant of US\$ 600 million over the same period. He highlighted Blue economy and the use of space technologies as two new areas where India looks forward to cooperating with countries in Africa.

The Summit adopted two joint documents - Delhi Declaration 2015 and the Framework of Strategic Cooperation. The Delhi Declaration 2015 stresses the fact that India and Africa despite comprising one-third of humanity continue to be excluded from institutions such as the UNSC clearly positioning the commonality of interests on global issues. It situates the IAFS-III in the global context of landmark processes of 2015. It provides the background of India-Africa relations, highlights the unique nature of south-south cooperation characterizing the India-Africa strategic partnership. It tells about the shared priorities and concerns relating to sustainable development and economic growth, which then translate into the specific areas of cooperation. These include education & capacity building, agriculture, trade and investment, energy, blue/ocean economy, infrastructure, healthcare, peace and security and multilateral issues. The Framework of Strategic Cooperation provides greater detail to the political declaration.

A Joint Plan of Action is being finalized with the AU. A new decision has been to establish a joint monitoring mechanism, which is expected to provide greater regular coordination between India and the AU. It was agreed to hold the next Summit after a gap of 5 years to allow better implementation of the range of partnership initiatives.

Several common themes emerged from the 72 bilateral meetings at PM/EAM level. There was a clear recognition that the UNSC remains incomplete by excluding the representation of one third of humanity comprised by India and Africa and that this needed to change to enable the UNSC to address contemporary problems. There was agreement on the need to continue to coordinate positions on climate change and WTO negotiations, and enhance bilateral and global cooperation on counter-terrorism. Increased development cooperation in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, urban water supply, hydropower, renewable energy, SMEs, vocational training centres and a greater number of scholarships and fellowships for higher education and training was discussed.



Europe and European Union

Albania

Ambassador presented her credentials to the Albanian President H.E. Mr. Bujar Nishani on 17 November 2015 at Tirana.

An Agreement on Visa free travel by diplomatic and official/service passport holders was signed between India and Albania on 27 November 2015.

Austria

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan visited Vienna to attend the 6th OPEC International Seminar from 3-6 June 2015.

14th session of the India-Austria Joint Economic Commission was held in Vienna on 31 August 2015.

The third meeting of the India-Austria Joint committee on Science and Technology took place in Vienna on 27-28 May 2015.

Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) visited Vienna to attend the UNIDO, Industrial Development Board on 22-25 June 2015. During his visit, Mr. Kant made a presentation at the “Make in India” Forum organized by the Mission at Vienna and at Linz in cooperation with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce on 22 June 2015.

The Embassy also participated Renewable Energy Exhibition RENEXPO, in Salzburg on 26-27 November 2015.

Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)

Mr. Mirsad Jasarspahic, Deputy Chairman of BiH Chamber of Commerce and Shri Krishna Kumar, Chairman of Indo-Bosnian Chamber of Commerce, signed a cooperation agreement in Sarajevo on 19 May 2015.

Bulgaria

The 17th session of the Joint Committee on Bulgaria-India Defence Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 23-24 April 2015.

On 26 May 2015, at the initiative of Indian Embassy in Bulgaria, Indian-Bulgarian Business Chamber was formed with the participation of reputed Bulgarian companies. The approval for registration of the Chamber was received in September 2015.

The Programme for Cooperation in the Fields of Science, Education and Culture between India and Bulgaria for the Period 2015-2017 was signed on 04 September 2015 in New Delhi.

Bulgaria also emerged as a destination for Indian films shooting.

Bulgarian Tourism Minister Nikolina Angelkova visited India during 23-24 November 2015. She met Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Tourism and Culture, Civil Aviation.

On the side-lines of the 5th ASEM Labour & Employment Ministers’ Conference in Sofia, the visiting Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Shri B. Dattatreya met Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Mr. Ivailo Kalfin on 2 December 2015.

Croatia

Ayurveda Cell was set up in the Indian Embassy in Croatia. Brainstorming sessions were held with Ayurveda practitioners, for expansion of their activities and some key programmes finalised. Embassy pushed for participation in GoIs major schemes like ‘Make in India’, ‘Digital India’ and ‘Smart Cities’. These are being followed up appropriately.

Cyprus

A Tourism Seminar was organized by the Mission in collaboration with the India Tourism Office, Milan on 23 April 2015, for tour operators of Cyprus.

The Mission in collaboration with ARToS, a Cypriot Cultural and Research foundation organized a week long cultural festival under the banner Namaste India from 30 March -7 April 2015.

Czech Republic

The 10th Session of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi on 27-28 January 2015, was jointly chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman and Czech Minister for Industry and Trade, Mr. Jan Mladek. A Protocol was signed at the end of the session to promote trade, investment and tourism between the two countries.

Defence Minister Mr. Martin Stropnický visited New Delhi and Bengaluru in February 2015 in connection with the AERO India show.

Czech President Milos Zeman met Hon'ble President in Moscow in May 2015 on the margins of Victory Day celebrations.

A delegation of Members of Committee on Economic Affairs of the Czech Parliament led by Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies (Lower house), Dr. Vojtech Filip visited India from 19-24 March 2015. Besides other meetings, the delegation also met with the Parliamentary Committee on Finance led by Dr. Veerappa Moily.

A delegation comprising members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Czech Parliament visited India from 26-30 April, 2015. The delegation called on Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

3rd JWG on Heavy Engineering took place in Mumbai on 24 November 2015. The JWG was followed by a workshop on high technology manufacturing.

Protocol between the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises of India and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Czech Republic on Cooperation in the Field

of Heavy Industry was signed in Mumbai on 24 November 2015.

The 2nd Round of India-Czech Consular Consultations was held in Delhi on 13 January 2016 to discuss various visa related issues.

Denmark

India Denmark relations continued to be affected by the non extradition of Niels Holck, aka Kim Davy to India for his involvement in the Purulia arms dropping case in 1995.

Estonia

India Estonia economic relations witnessed a boost during the year with several Indian IT companies deciding to set up their development centers in Estonia. Exchanges between academic and research institutions also increased during the year. Foreign Minister of Estonia, Ms. Mariana Kalijurand met External Affairs Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj in New York on 30 September, 2015 on the sidelines of the UNGA Session and discussed bilateral relations.

Finland

India's relations with Finland continued growing in all spheres after the successful visit of Hon'ble Rashtrapati in October 2014. Several Indian IT companies increased their presence in Finland by setting up their R and D centers in addition to their normal operations. An Indo-Finnish Symposium on Bio Technology and Medical Diagnostics was organised in Turku on 27- 28 October 2015.

Prime Minister of Finland Mr. Juha Sipila visited India, leading a high level business delegation, to participate in the Make in India week in Mumbai in February 2016. He had bilateral talks with Prime Minister.

Greece

A meeting took place between Minister of State Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) and Foreign Minister of Greece in November 2015 on the sidelines of the ASEM. Greek Defence Minister visited India on 17-18 December 2015.

Twenty nine Indian companies (MSMEs) took part in the 80th Thessaloniki International Fair on 05-13 September 2015 under the auspices of ITPO the Ministry of Micro,

Small and Medium Enterprises. India was the second largest country participating in the fair which generated various B2B and B2C meetings.

The Embassy organised third Bollywood Dance and Multicultural Dance Festival on 4-5 July 2015. Also arranged during the year were several cultural events in Greece including Screening of Indian films in Thessaloniki and Athens; Indian Cinema Week on 12-18 January 2015 in Kallithea; solo exhibition of paintings by Indian artist Mrs Sangeeta Gupta, India Food Festival on 25-29 March 2015.

Cricket Teams from four schools in India participated in the 5th International Schools Cricket Tournament organised by the Hellenic Cricket Federation in Corfu on 19-25 April 2015. Fifty junior chess players from India participated in the World Youth and Cadet Chess Championship held in Halkidiki, Greece on 25 October-05 November 2015. Indian contingent topped the list with 5 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals. 91 countries took part in the event.

Greek Defence Minister Mr. Panos Kammenos visited India from 17-19 December 2015. He was accompanied by a large business delegation which interacted with Indian stakeholders in public and private sectors and B-to-B meetings were held for joint defence production between India and Greece. During the visit, the Greek Defence Minister met Shri Manohar Parrikar, Defence Minister and Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs.

Hungary

PM Viktor Orban laid the foundation stone for the Apollo Tyre factory in Gyongyoshalasz, Hungary, on 10 April 2015. Apollo has announced an investment of Euro 475 million in Hungary.

The meeting of 7th Joint Defence Committee co-Chaired by Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Secretary for Defence Production, and Dr. Attila Puskas, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

Shri Om Prakash Dhankar, Agriculture Minister of Haryana, along with a 8-member delegation visited Budapest from 26-29 May 2015 to participate in the conference organized by World Union of Wholesale Markets.

On 20 May 2015, Peter Szijjarto, Foreign & Trade Minister visited Mumbai and met Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra

Fadnavis and also met with leading CEOs in India.

The Hungarian Post released a special Postage Stamp titled 'Yoga for Harmony & Peace'.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Dr. Laszlo Szabo, along with a business delegation visited India for the 2nd India Central Europe Business Forum, which was held at Bengaluru on 5-6 October 2015. Dr. Szabo had meetings with Minister of State for External Affairs and Secretary (West) and called on the Governor of Maharashtra. An MOU between Hungary and the State of Karnataka on Economic Cooperation was signed during the visit.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd), had a bilateral meeting with Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Peter Szijjarto, on the sidelines of ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luxembourg on 6 November 2015 and discussed bilateral political and economic relationship.

Latvia

The Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh and the Foreign Minister of Latvia Mr. Edgars Rinkevics met in Luxembourg on 5 November 2015 on the sidelines of ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Mr. Atis Lejins, Member of Parliament and Co-Chairman of India-Latvia Friendship Group, visited India from 3-12 April 2015 under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors' programme.

An international scientific forum, 'Fostering Latvia-India Cooperation', dedicated to promoting cooperation between Latvia and India in the field of research and education, including Ayurveda, was inaugurated at the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 May 2015.

An India Tourism Road Show was organized in Riga by the India Tourism Office, Frankfurt and the Indian Ministry of Tourism on 6 July 2015.

The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated in the Botanical Gardens in Riga with over 1000 participants.

Liechtenstein

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated on 21 June 2015 at the Culture Centre, Gasometer, Liechtenstein, with participation of about 30 people.

Lithuania

Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya visited Lithuania for the unveiling of a sculptural composition of Mahatma Gandhi and his Lithuanian friend Hermann Kallenbach. The sculpture was jointly unveiled by the PM of Lithuania and MOS (Agriculture) in Kallenbach's birthplace, Rusne on 2 October 2015. MOS also held bilateral talks in Vilnius with Lithuanian Vice Minister for Agriculture Mr. Vilius Martusevicius, where both sides agreed to harness the significant potential for intensifying bilateral cooperation in agriculture, particularly in sectors like food and dairy processing.

Prime Minister of Lithuania, Mr. Algirdas Butkevicius visited India from 12 - 16 February 2016 leading a high level business delegation to attend the Make in India week in Mumbai. He had bilateral talks with the Prime Minister on 13 February 2016.

Macedonia

The first International Yoga Day was attended by more than 100 persons.

Malta

Mr. Godfrey Farrugia, Hon'ble MP visited Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh for Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Parliament and Media Law Conference held during 7-11 April 2015.

Prof. K.V. Thomas, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee led a four-member delegation to Malta to the 5th Westminster Workshop: Effective, Independent and Transparent Public Accounts Committees for Robust Public Financial Oversight from 01-05 June 2015.

INS Tarangini visited Malta among other countries from 20-22 June 2015 and again on 6-8 October 2015.

India was represented at CHOGM Summit held in Malta from 25-29 November 2015 by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister as head of the delegation. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh represented at the Foreign Ministers' segment from 25-26 November 2015 and EAM as Head of the delegation from 26-29 November 2015.

Moldova

Ambassador (Mrs) Riva Ganguly Das presented her credentials to the President of Moldova, Nicolae Timofti, Chisinau on 9th December 2015. During her visit Ambassador also called on the Deputy PM and Minister of Economy, Mr. Stephane Bride, Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Tudor Ulianovshi and Deputy Minister for International Relations at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Mr. Vladimir Loghin and also met President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Valeriu Lazar.

A business networking event was organised by the Embassy in Moldova on 8 December 2015. Members of Indian community, Indian and Moldovan businessmen, tour operators etc attended the event.

Montenegro

After the presentation of credentials on 17 June 2015 at Cetinje, Ambassador had a brief interaction with the President.

Norway

The Norway-Asia Business Summit was held in New Delhi from 16-18 April 2015 where more than 185 representatives from the trade, industry and governmental sectors from Asia and Norway participated.

2nd round of Indo-Norwegian Consultations on multilateral issues was held on 19 May 2015 in Oslo.

On the sidelines of the International Donors Conference in Kathmandu in June 2015 following the Nepal earthquake, EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj met with Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Børge Brende.

The 2nd Indo-Norwegian JWG Meeting on Cooperation of Fisheries and Aquaculture was held in Trondheim on 18 August 2015.

8th Meeting of the JWG on Environment was held in New Delhi on 17 September 2015.

Dr. Heena Gavit, MP and former Minister Mr. Sachin Pilot visited Norway from 30 September - 6 October 2015 on a study tour of Norway for young Indian politicians, organized by Embassy of Norway in New Delhi. This was in response to 12-member Parliamentary delegation (led by Mr. Geir

Pollestad, Chairman of Standing Committee on Business and Industry) who visited India from 19-21 February 2015.

Following the 4th Indo-Norway JCM which was held in 2010, the 5th JCM co-chaired by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Børge Brende was held in New Delhi on 2 November 2015. Progress of work under the eight Joint Working Groups (Marine Resources, Maritime Affairs, Hydrocarbons, Environment, Science and Technology, Education, Culture and Local Governance) as also additional areas (defence, polar research, biotechnology, health, renewable energy, hydro power and water) were reviewed. While Mr. Børge Brende assured EAM of Norway's support for India for permanent membership for the UNSC and India's aspiration to become member of MTCR and NSG, the two Foreign Ministers agreed to establish an annual Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI) between the two countries.

Poland

The fourth session of the India-Poland Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held in Warsaw, on 15 June 2015. Earlier, on 12-13 June 2015, the three newly created bilateral Joint Working Groups on Coal, IT and Food Processing met and identified specific areas of cooperation in their respective domains.

The first India Poland IT Forum was held in Krakow (08-09 July 2015).

IKEA (India) held an unprecedented outreach seminar in Warsaw on 8 September 2015 prodding Polish and other European suppliers to make more in India, not just to meet regulatory conditions, but also to improve affordability and profitability of products for the humongous Indian market. IKEA sees India as its 'last big market' with multiple long-term opportunities and the potential to source up to 50 per cent products locally for upto 50 stores that may come up in India.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Leszek Soczewica led a high level business delegation to participate in India-Central Europe Business Summit in Bangalore from 5-6 October 2015 in which Poland was a partner country.

A Polish delegation led by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy Jerzy Pietrewicz, along with the Deputy Marshal of the Lublin Voivodeship Krzysztof Grabczuk and business

representatives took part in Progressive Punjab Investors Summit 2015. Poland was a partner country at the Summit.

The Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development, Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki led a high level business delegation to Mumbai to attend the Make in India from 13 - 18 February 2016.

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports was signed on 5 October 2015 in Bengaluru during 2nd ICEBF.

Romania

Namaste India cultural festival was organised from 5-9 June 2015 by Tagore Cultural Center, Bucharest with the help of India Tourism, Frankfurt and the Embassy. This extremely popular festival helps showcase India to a wide cross section of people in Bucharest.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ICCR and University of Bucharest for the establishment of Hindi Chair in September 2015.

Serbia

Serbia greatly valued India's vote at the UNESCO General Conference on 9 November 2015 against Kosovo's bid for membership of UNESCO.

High level political dialogue was carried forward in the bilateral meeting between Rashtrapatiji and President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic on 8 May 2015 in Moscow.

The University of Belgrade started a new course 'Cultural History of India' on popular demand.

Indian defence industry consortium signed MOUs with Serbian defence industry for transfer of technology under 'Make in India'. Serbia utilised one slot in the UN Peacekeeping course in India and in reciprocity offered to India a course in CBRN.

45 Serbian companies visited India to provide technical support to Indian companies. In addition, a delegation from the National Petroleum Committee of Serbia attended the World Petroleum Council (WPC) Meetings held at New Delhi from 26-30 October 2015.

More than 50 Serbian companies visited India to provide technical support to Indian companies and institutions. In addition, a delegation from the National Petroleum Committee of Serbia attended the World Petroleum Council (WPC) Meetings held at New Delhi from 26-30 October 2015. A delegation from Serbian defence PSU Yugoimport visited India (November 2015) at the invitation of Bharat Dynamics Limited in connection with refurbishment work of vintage KVADRAT missiles. A two-member team from the Serbian R&D company Sentronis AD were invited by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) (November 2015) for installation and commissioning of 3D magnetic field mapping system purchased by BARC from Sentronis AD. Prof. Dr. Branko Matovic and Dr. Biljana Babic from the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade were invited by IIT-Madras (January 2016) for assisting their Department of Metallurgical & Materials Engg. in performing some experiments and deliver scientific lectures.

India Tourism promotion, including through successful participation in the Belgrade International Tourism Fair, resulted in 17% year on year growth in the numbers of Serbian tourists visiting India.

Active collaboration continued in the field of films with many Indian films being shot in Serbia.

Slovak Republic

The Eighth Session of the India Slovakia Joint Economic Committee was held in New Delhi on 25 February 2015. India first ever interaction with V4 (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) at official level was held in Bratislava on 27 February, 2015. Economy Minister of Slovakia, Mr Vazil Hudak visited India from 7-10 October 2015 and met Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways. An MoU between Indian Railways and Slovak Railways was signed on 12 August 2015 in New Delhi.

Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing was signed in New Delhi on 29 July 2015.

Slovenia

A 7-member delegation led by Dr. Milan Brglez, President of the National Assembly of Slovenia made a return visit to India from 24-27 November 2015 at the invitation of Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Shri K.D. Tripathi, Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises visited Ljubljana on 7-8 April 2015 to chair ICPE Council meeting and also to attend its General Assembly meeting. 24 officers of AFHQ attended the 2nd Professional Development Programme conducted by ICPE which began on 31 August 2015, as part of mandatory Mid-Career Training Programme from 31 August - 4 September 2015 and then from 9 September - 11 September 2015. A group of 27 officers from the National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad attended the International Training Programme on 'Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management' organized at ICPE from 12-16 October 2015.

The Indian booth at the 9th DIAFEST held in Ljubljana from 7-9 July 2015 provided information about tourist destinations in India.

India participated at the 48th International Trade and Business Fair (MOS), one of the largest and most important trade fairs in Slovenia, held at Celje from 8-13 September 2015.

The Agreement on Gainful Occupation of Dependents of Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts was signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 24 April 2015.

Slovenian firm Pipistrel signed in October 2015 a Euro 17 mn agreement to supply 194 ultra light trainer aircraft to Indian Navy, Air Force and NCC.

Second Edition of the Annual "Days of India in Slovenia" was held from 25-30 January 2016 during which ICCR sponsored Phulkari Exhibition was displayed at the National Ethnological Museum of Slovenia, Ljubljana.

Sweden

President Pranab Mukherjee paid a landmark first-ever Head of State visit from India to Sweden from 31 May-2 June 2015. The Presidential delegation included the Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir; Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition in the Upper House; and Shri Ashwani Kumar, Member of Lok Sabha. High-level educational and business delegations also accompanied the President. Six intergovernmental Agreements/MOUs in important areas, including sustainable development and small and medium enterprises, and 15

MoUs between educational institutions were signed during the visit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven met in New York in September 2015 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh met Foreign Minister of Sweden Ms. Margot Wallström in Luxembourg in November on the sidelines of ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The Swedish Minister for Infrastructure Anna Johansson visited India from 31 March - 3 April 2015. The State Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office Mr. Hans Dahlgren visited India on 29 April 2015. The Defence Minister Mr. Peter Hulquist visited India from 9-12 June 2015. The State Secretary in Prime Minister's Office Mr. Hans Dahlgren visited India again on 6-7 October 2015 for the first round of the revived Strategic Dialogue with the National Security Advisor. Ms. Ann Linde, State Secretary for Home Affairs in the Ministry of Justice also visited India at the same time. The Minister of Housing, Urban Development & Information Technology Mr. Mehmet Kaplan visited India from 13-18 October 2015.

From the Indian side, Minister for Women & Child Development Ms. Maneka Gandhi visited Sweden from 23-26 May 2015 to meet her counterpart and to inaugurate 'Namaste Stockholm'; a festival of Indian culture, cuisine and handicrafts, a first of its kind in Sweden organized by the Embassy. Mr. Zenith M. Sangma, Minister of Sports from Government of Meghalaya also participated in the event. High-level delegations from three Indian states visited Sweden during the year. Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis visited Sweden on 15-16 April 2015 to promote 'Make in Maharashtra'. Dr. Rajiv Sharma Chief Secretary, and Mr. Arvind Kumar, Industry Secretary from Telangana, visited Sweden from 14-17 October 2015. A 10-member Delhi government delegation led by Mr. Satyendar Kumar Jain, Minister of Health, Home, Power, PWD and Industries, which included Mr. Gopal Rai, Minister of Transport, visited Sweden for a study tour from 24-30 October 2015.

The first meeting of the India-Sweden Joint Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development took place in New Delhi on 14 October 2015. The 5th Meeting of the India-Sweden

Joint Working Group on defence cooperation was held in New Delhi on 29-30 September 2015.

A 24-member NASSCOM delegation visited Stockholm on 29-30 May 2015 as part of their Nordic region tour. A 21-member pulp and paper delegation from India visited Sweden from 28-30 September 2015.

Under the India Unlimited platform coordinated by the Indian Embassy, a number of business conferences were organized in Stockholm for the second year. The overarching theme of these conferences this year was 'Make in India: Grow with India' and they were held from 31 May-3 June 2015, to coincide with the Presidential visit.

The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated in many parts of the Sweden. The main event organized in Gothenburg was inaugurated by the Mayor of the City and attracted more than 400 enthusiasts.

Prime Minister of Sweden H.E. Stefan Lofven led a large official-cum-business delegation to India from 13-14 February 2016 to participate in the first Make in India Week in Mumbai. Prime Minister Löfven had bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Modi during the visit. This important visit maintained the momentum given to India - Sweden relations by the first-ever State visit of the President of India from 31 May - 2 June 2015. It also gave a significant boost to the wide-ranging economic partnership between India and Sweden; particularly in areas covered by the flagship programmes that have been launched by Prime Minister Modi's Government including Make in India, Smart Cities, Digital India, Skill India and Clean India .

Switzerland

High-level visits on both sides further cemented the partnership. India can leverage Swiss capabilities for the 'Make in India' program, as Switzerland tops global Innovation and International Competitiveness rankings. The potential for significantly increasing cooperation between the two countries in the economic, scientific, technological, manufacturing, and vocational education and training space is being explored.

14th Session of the Indo-Swiss Joint Economic Committee was held in New Delhi on 14 May 2015. Mr. Johann Schneider-Amman, Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Switzerland, visited India

on 15-17 May 2015, leading an economic mission of about 20 business representatives, federal and cantonal officials and Members of Parliament.

Horasis, the global visions community, convened its 6th Horasis India Meeting at Interlaken, Switzerland on 5-6 July 2015.

Foreign Secretary visited Switzerland from 10-13 September 2015 for discussions with Swiss State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He also held discussions with the State Secretary for Economic Affairs and other Swiss participants on ways to strengthen bilateral relations especially in the economic field.

A delegation led by Secretary, Department of Science & Technology (DST), visited Switzerland on 16-19 September 2015 to participate in the 3rd meeting of the Indo-Swiss Joint Committee on S&T on 18 September 2015 in Berne.

Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, led a high-level Parliamentary delegation (including nine MPs apart from senior officials of Parliament Secretariat) to the 133rd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Assembly, held in Geneva from 17-21 October 2015.

The first Swiss India Renewable Energy (SIREN) Symposium took place at EPFL Innovation Park, Lausanne on 19-20 November 2015. The Symposium was addressed through video message by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy.

A delegation, led by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, participated in the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2016 at Davos, Switzerland from 20-23 January, 2016. On the sidelines of the meeting, Hon'ble FM had bilateral meetings with several ministers including the Swiss Federal Councillor for Finance, Mr Ueli Maurer. A high level delegation led by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, also participated in the meeting. While in Davos, Shri Naidu had several meetings with investors including presentations by a group of Swiss companies, about 12 in numbers, in Zurich looking at opportunities for Swiss investments in Andhra Pradesh. Shri Raghuram Rajan, Governor, RBI, also attended the WEF 2016. As in the past,



Prime Minister meeting with President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of G20 Summit 2015, in Turkey (16 November, 2015)

there was a large participation from the Indian corporate sector spearheaded by CII.

Turkey

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan visited New Delhi on 3-7 April 2015 to attend the B 20 Regional Consultation Forum hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry(CII).

Minister of State for External Affairs Gen(Retd) V.K. Singh led a delegation to Turkey on 24-25 April 2015 to represent India at the Centenary Anniversary of the Canakkale Sea and Land Battles.

The 9th Round of India-Turkey Foreign Office Consultations was held in Ankara on 17 April 2015. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), and the Turkish delegation was led by Mr. Feridun Sinirlioglu, Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

On the margins of the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul on 7-8 May 2015, Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh had bilateral talks with Mr.Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley visited Turkey on 3-5 September 2015 to participate in the G20 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Ankara. While in Ankara, Finance Minister attended a CII Business Roundtable with Turkish entrepreneurs.

Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (Independent Charge) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the G 20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul on 5-6 October 2015. CIM held bilateral talks with Mr. Nihat Zeybekci, Minister of Economy of Turkey, on the margins of the G 20 meeting.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the G 20 Summit in Antalya on 14-16 November 2015. Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on 16 November 2015 on the margins of the Summit. The Leaders exchanged views on the bilateral agenda and on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Several delegations from India visited Turkey during the course of 2015 to attend G 20 meetings. Among these, Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu attended the G 20 Sherpas Meeting in Bodrum 16-17 June 2015; Minister of State for Labour & Employment Shri Bandaru Dattatreya participated in the G 20 Labour and Employment Ministers

Meeting in Ankara on 3-4 September 2015; and, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog, Dr. Arvind Panagariya attended the G 20 Sherpas Meeting in Ankara on 13-14 October 2015.

On 6 April 2015, Confederation of Indian Industry signed an MoU with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation. TOBB also signed a cooperation agreement with FICCI for establishing India-Turkey Working Committee and Investment Forums. A delegation from the Turkey Exporters Council led by Mr. Adnan Yıldırım, Deputy Minister of Economy of Turkey visited Mumbai on 6-9 April 2015 to participate in the Turkey-India Business Forum. On 6 August 2015, State Bank of India and Turkey's Akbank entered into a cooperation agreement to support bilateral trade and investments.

Retracing the voyage of the Ottoman frigate Ertugrul to Japan in the 19th century, Turkish Naval Ship TCG Gediz made a Port Call in Mumbai and Chennai on 20-23 April 2015 and 2-4 July 2015 respectively. A delegation from the National Defence College visited Turkey on 22-26 August 2015 as part of the Strategic Neighbourhood Study Tour. INS Trikand made a port call in Istanbul on 4-6 October 2015.

The Fifth India-Turkey Forum (Track II) was held in Istanbul on 23 October 2015.

Prof. Korhan Kaya, Head of Department, Ankara University visited New Delhi on 21-25 November 2015 to participate in the International Conference of Indologists 2015.

India strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Suruc on 20 July 2015. Rashtrapatiji addressed a letter to President Erdogan expressing shock and sadness over the twin bomb explosions in Ankara on 10 October 2015.

European Union

The relationship between India and EU is based on shared values of democracy, rule of law, respect for fundamental freedoms and multiculturalism. EU is a valued Strategic Partner of India; both sides celebrated the 10th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership in 2014. Although the core of the relationship was economic to start with in tune with the European construct itself, over the years and in particular following the coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon and the creation of the European External Action Service, the

political and security dimensions of the strategic partnership have received considerable boost.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President of the European Council Mr. Donald Tusk and the President of the European Commission Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Antalya on 15 November 2015. They discussed India-EU relation and global issues of mutual interest.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan led a 13-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Brussels from 22-26 June 2015 at the invitation of the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Martin Schulz. She was welcomed officially in the Plenary of the European Parliament in Brussels. The delegation had close and extensive discussions on a wide gamut of issues of bilateral interest, including those directed towards addressing India's developmental priorities, with Members of the European Parliament. During the visit, the Speaker also met European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with India (D-IN). Earlier, some Members of the European Parliament of the Delegation for Relations with India visited India in March 2015 to meet India's political leadership.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), led the Indian delegation at the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luxembourg from 4-7 November 2015. Besides steering the Indian position on the Chair Statement at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs also met his counterparts from Luxembourg, Latvia, Sweden, Hungary, UK, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Portugal and Ireland on the sidelines.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India visited Luxembourg on the invitation of the President of the European Court of Auditors, Mr. Vitor Caldeira, from 6-8 September 2015. They discussed mechanisms to foster closer institutional linkages between their organisations.

The EU as a bloc of 28 countries is India's largest regional trading partner while India was the EU's 9th largest trading partner in 2014. India's overall bilateral trade (in both goods and services) with the EU28 during 2014 (January-December) was ₹5.51 billion with bilateral trade in goods being ₹2.52 billion and bilateral trade in services being ₹2.99 billion. India's export of goods to the EU in 2014 stood at €

36.8 billion while India's imports from the EU were valued at ₹5.9 billion. India's bilateral trade with the EU28 during the first eight months of 2015 (Jan-Aug 2015) stood at ₹2.3 billion with India's exports valued at ₹6.9 billion and India's imports from the EU at ₹5.4 billion. The EU continued to be one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India with FDI inflows from the EU to India valued at ₹956 billion in 2014. Indian investments in the EU28 were ₹078 billion in 2014.

During the year, meetings of bilateral institutional mechanisms between India and EU also took place. The India-EU Dialogue on Counter terrorism was held on 20 May 2015 and that on Cyber security was held on 21 May 2015 in Brussels.

Four meetings were held in New Delhi- the India-EU Joint Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)/ Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) (11 June 2015); the India-EU Joint Working Group on Agriculture and Marine Products (7 October 2015); the India-EU Sub-Commission on Trade (15 October 2015); and the India-EU Sub Commission on Economic Cooperation (16 October 2015).

Enhancing educational, cultural and people to people contacts has been an important priority. To this end, Sri Sri Ravishankar, the renowned international Yoga exponent led the curtain raiser of the celebrations on 21 April 2015 by speaking on Yoga and guiding a Meditation and Question and Answer session at the European Parliament in Brussels.

West Europe

Principality of Andorra

The relations between India and the Principality of Andorra remained warm and cordial. India and Andorra continued negotiations on a draft Tax Information Exchange Agreement during the year. The Government of India extended the e-Tourist Visa facility to Andorra in 2015.

Belgium

Relations between India and Belgium continued to register significant progress in political, economic, technological and cultural spheres during the year. The presence of a highly-skilled Indian diaspora, mainly active in diamond trading in Belgium, played a key role in augmenting the relationship.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan led a high-level parliamentary delegation to Belgium comprising Members of Parliaments from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from 22-26 June 2015. Hon'ble Speaker held meetings with the Presidents of the Belgian House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Members of Parliament from Rajya Sabha, Mr. Tarun Vijay and Mr. A.W. Rabi Bernard paid a visit to the US Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels from 13-16 September 2015.

Bilateral trade during January-August 2015 stood at $\text{₹}3.29$ billion, of which India's export to Belgium was $\text{₹}0.88$ Billion and import was $\text{₹}4.1$ billion. Bilateral trade was dominated by gems and jewellery. While India mostly imported uncut diamonds, the major import to India from Belgium in January-August, 2015 were gems & jewellery ($\text{₹}0.31$ billion), chemicals and chemical products ($\text{₹}0.41$ million), machinery and engineering products ($\text{₹}0.20$ million) and plastic and articles ($\text{₹}0.03$ million). The major exports from India to Belgium were in the sectors of gems & jewellery ($\text{₹}0.31$ billion), chemicals and chemical products ($\text{₹}0.26$ million) and textiles ($\text{₹}0.03$ million).

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), in association with the Indian Embassy in Brussels, participated in the Seafood Expo Global, organized in Brussels from 21-23 April 2015. 22 Indian Sea Food exporters participated in the event. 'Make in India' events were organized by the Indian Embassy, including events organized during the visit of a delegation of Confederation of Indian Industries from 27-29 May 2015.

The 14th India-Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Commission was held in New Delhi from 28-29 September 2015. The Commerce Secretary led the Indian side while the Belgian side was led by Mr. Geert Muylle, Director General of Bilateral Affairs.

India and Belgium have an ongoing collaboration to commemorate the centenary of the First World War for the period 2014-18. The Annual Commemoration Ceremony for the Indian Soldiers, who participated in the First World War, was held on 12 November 2015 at the Indian Memorial in Ypres, Belgium. The commemoration also included Indian Army an Memorial Concert at Knokke Heist in Belgium on 11 November 2015.

To celebrate the cultural and people-to-people contacts with Belgium, a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was inaugurated at the Catholic University of Leuven on 7 May 2015 on the occasion of Gurudev's 154th Birth Anniversary.

On the occasion of the first Constitutional Day of India on 26 November 2015, a seminar was held at the Catholic University of Leuven on the topic - "Federalism in India: Comparative and European Perspectives".

The Government of India has extended the e- Tourist Visa facility to Belgium with effect from 15 August 2015 to promote tourism and people- to- people contact.

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Belgium on 21 June 2015 with people participating in public yoga events in Brussels, Antwerp, Leuven, Ghent, Radhadesh in the Belgian Ardennes, Enghein and Kortrijk. In Brussels, a large public Yoga event was held at the picturesque Bois de la Cambre (Forest of Brussels) with 4788 registered participants. The Antwerp Indian Association organized a yoga event in Antwerp, which saw around 1500 participants.

France

Indo-French relations received a boost in 2015 with the highly successful visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to France from 09-12 April 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of France Mr. Francois Hollande also held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2015. They met again in Paris on 30 November 2015 at the Leaders' Event of the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP-21) in Paris.

During the Prime Minister's visit to France from 09-12 April 2015, Prime Minister had a one-to-one meeting with the French President and held delegation-level talks where the two leaders discussed various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two leaders released two joint stamps carrying images of the SARAL and Megha- Tropiques satellites to commemorate the completion of 50 years of Indo-French Cooperation in Space. Prime Minister also met Parliamentary leaders of France and was hosted a lunch by Mr. Claude Bartolone, President of the French National Assembly.

The 7th meeting of the Indo-French CEO's Forum was also held on 9 April 2015 and its recommendations were presented to Prime Minister and the French President, which included creation of five Task Forces on (i) Energy (conventional and renewable) (ii) Water and Waste (iii) Life Sciences (iv) Defence & Aerospace and, (v) Infrastructure Financing. Prime Minister was invited by MEDEF (French Business Confederation) to address business round-tables on Infrastructure and Defence Manufacturing. 15 CEOs of top French companies attended each of the two round-tables.

Prime Minister also addressed a large gathering at UNESCO in Paris, and had a meeting with Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO. He paid tribute to the statue of Sri Aurobindo, installed in the UNESCO premises and inaugurated a web-portal dedicated to Yoga.

Prime Minister travelled to Toulouse city in Midi-Pyrenees Region of France, where he visited the manufacturing unit of Airbus. He also visited CNES (French National Centre for Space Studies).

Prime Minister accompanied by Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Minister of Defence visited the Neuve Chapelle Memorial, in the north of France to commemorate over 4,700 Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War. He also addressed a large gathering of Indians and Persons of Indian Origin in France at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris.

19 Agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit encompassing diverse areas of cooperation between India and France, such as Nuclear Energy, Space, Railways, Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Science and Technology, Sports, Tourism, Human exchanges, Renewable energy and Twinning of historical monuments etc.

India and France strengthened bilateral civil nuclear cooperation through two agreements signed during Prime Minister's visit in April 2015: A pre-engineering Agreement for Engineering Services between Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and French company Areva and an MOU between L & T and Areva.

A Program of Agreement for joint development of an earth observation satellite, cooperation in inter-planetary missions and hosting of a French payload on an Indian satellite was also signed between the two countries during the visit. Two other MoUs on Space signed during the visit,

include the extension of the ISRO-CNES MoU on Megha-Tropiques satellite and MoU between ISRO, CNES and ONERA for Ka-band propagation experiment over Indian tropical region. 19 Indian satellites have been launched by Arianespace on a commercial basis so far. On 10 November 2015, India's advanced telecommunications satellite GSAT-15 was precisely placed into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit by the French launch vehicle Ariane-5 from Kourou in French Guiana.

India and France have a robust defence cooperation ranging from exchange of visits, joint exercises to defence procurement. During Prime Minister's visit in April 2015, a proposal to acquire 36 Rafale jets by India in a fly-away condition under a government-to-government deal was announced. French Defense Minister Mr Jean Yves Le Drian visited India and met Raksha Mantri on 06 May 2015.

The Indo French Naval Exercise VARUNA was held from 28 April – 02 May 2015 off the coast of Goa in which aircraft carriers of both the countries viz., Charles de Gaulle and Viraat participated. INS Trikand undertook a port call at Toulon Naval Base from 25-29 September 2015. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Rao Inderjit Singh led an Indian delegation to the Paris Air Show from 15-18 June 2015 and met the French Defence Minister Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and held meetings with various companies.

Other important Ministerial level visits include the visit by Union Minister of Urban Development, Shri Venkaiah Naidu to attend the Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress in Bordeaux on 5-6 October 2015. Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Union Minister of Civil Aviation took part in the 51st 'International Paris Air Show' in Paris Le Bourget from 15-21 June 2015. Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce & Industry, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, attended the Informal Gathering of the Annual World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris on 3 June 2015.

Major incoming visits from France include the visit of Mr Laurent Fabius, French Minister of Foreign Affairs accompanied by Ms Laurence Tubiana, Ambassador for Climate Change, to India on 20 November 2015, in preparation for the CoP-21. They called on Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests

and Climate Change, Mr. Prakash Javdekar and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy, Mr. Piyush Goyal and Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways during the visit.

Bilateral trade between India and France stood at €6.5 billion during the first nine months of 2015 registering a growth of 11.89% over last year's figures. India's exports to France which stood at €4.1 billion were up by 7.86% over the corresponding period last year. There are over one hundred Indian companies operating in France, employing more than 7,000 people with a cumulative stock of approximately 1 billion Euros. There are 750 large French companies present in India with France being the 9th largest foreign investor in India with a cumulative investment of € 4.2 billion from April 2000 to June 2015. French FDI from April-June 2015 was to the tune of € 123 million.

India and France enjoy a long-standing cooperation in the field of education and research. Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) supported 79 bilateral projects, 150 visits of scientists and 6 seminars. CEFIPRA signed a MoU with Airbus for an Aerospace Programme on 26 April 2015 in Paris.

Both India and France have operationalised the expanded VIE scheme which includes two years of residence permit, offering students the possibility of finding suitable employment related to their area of studies. In 2015, students from 30 French schools visited India and students from 15 Indian schools visited France, as part of the vibrant school exchange programmes between the two countries.

The Government of India has extended the e- Tourist Visa facility to France in April 2015.

The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated in France on 21 June 2015 with over 3000 people performing Yoga at the flagship event organized by the Embassy at the *Parc de la Villette* in Paris.

India and France have reiterated their solidarity in the fight against terrorism in the context of terrorist attacks in France in 2015. In the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015 in which 130 people were killed, Prime Minister issued a statement condemning the terrorist attacks and expressed solidarity with the people of France. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and External Affairs Minister Smt.

Sushma Swaraj also wrote to their French counterparts expressing condolences and solidarity with France.

Prime Minister also visited Paris to attend the Leaders' Event on 30 November 2015 at the commencement of CoP-21 accompanied by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy. Prime Minister met President Hollande and they together launched the 'International Solar Alliance' on 30 November 2015 at Le Bourget. They jointly released a book of quotations titled, 'Ecology of Our World' containing a joint preface authored by the two leaders. Prime Minister also held bilateral meetings with US President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Prime Minister along with French President, US President and entrepreneur Bill Gates, addressed the 'Mission Innovation' event launched by the United States Foundation on the sidelines of CoP-21 to promote investment and funding in innovative technologies to promote renewable energy and reduce the carbon footprint.

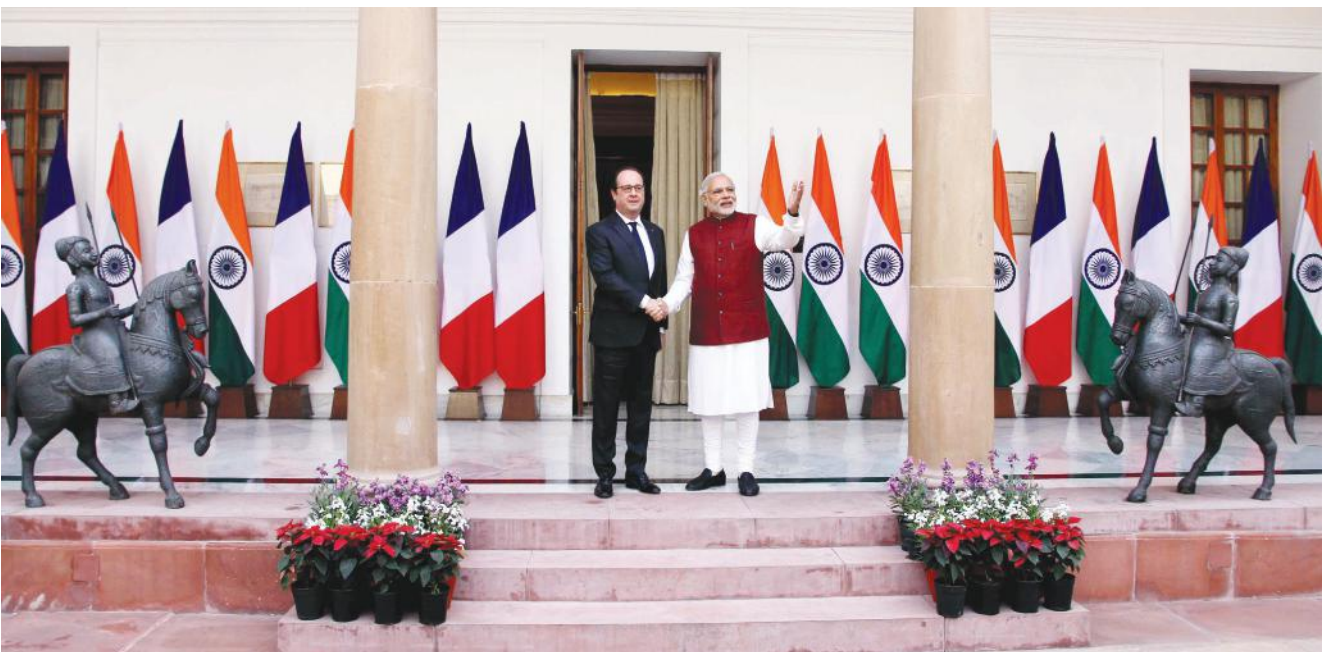
Mr Francois Hollande, President of France visited India as the Chief Guest of India's 67th Republic Day from 24-26 January 2016. With this, France becomes the country with the most number of invitations (five) as the Chief Guest on India's Republic Day.

For the first time in the history of India's Republic Day celebrations, a 126 member French military contingent participated in the Republic Day parade on 26 January 2016. President Hollande held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi where they discussed on various issues of bilateral, regional and international importance. This was their fifth meeting, building on the highly successful visit of the Prime Minister to France in April 2015.

President Hollande's Visit to India has put Indo-French Strategic Partnership on a firm upward trajectory. The relationship received further impetus with concrete progress in the tripod of relationship- Defence, Civil Nuclear cooperation and Space, with the conclusion of a MOU on purchase of Rafale fighter jets in Defence, conclusion of Revised MOU between NPCIL and EDF & a Roadmap of Cooperation to start the work on the Jaitapur project by early 2017 in Civil Nuclear sphere and announcement of partnership in joint Earth Observation Mission & launch



President, Prime Minister and the Chief Guest of Republic Day, President of France, Mr. Francois Hollande arriving at saluting dais, at Rajpath, on the occasion of the 67th Republic Day Parade 2016, in New Delhi on 26 January 2016.



Prime Minister meeting with President of France in New Delhi (25 January, 2016)

of ARGOS payload on India's OCEANSAT-3 satellite and France's possible participation in future inter-planetary exploration including Mars Mission. In all, 17 G2G Agreements/MOUs in diverse fields such as defence, civil nuclear, Space, Smart Cities, S&T, Smart Governance, Food Safety, Culture etc were signed. In addition 13 MOUs/Agreements were concluded and announced during the India-France Business Summit in Chandigarh on 24 January 2016. PM Modi and President Hollande jointly inaugurated the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance in Gurgaon. France committed 300 million Euros for future ISA projects. India and France issued a Joint Statement on Terrorism reiterating our joint determination and commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism.

With the conclusion of over 50 Agreements/MOUs between India and France spurred by the visits of PM Modi and President Hollande, in a short span of 9 months, France has become one of India's foremost Strategic Partners with leading partnerships in our flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Smart Cities, Digital India, Renewable Energy etc.

National Security Advisor Shri Ajit K Doval led an Indian delegation to Paris on 12-13 January 2016 to hold the 27th round of the Strategic Dialogue between India and France. The French side was led by Mr Jaques Audibert, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President. Both sides discussed cooperation in strategic spheres of security, defence cooperation, civil nuclear cooperation, counter terrorism etc.

Shri Arvind K Gupta Deputy National Security Advisor led the Indian delegation to Paris to hold the first-ever India-France Dialogue on Maritime Cooperation in Indian Ocean region on 14-15 January 2016.

A French delegation led by the Chairman of AREVA and senior executives from EDF visited India on 7-8 January 2016 and held discussions on advancing the nuclear power project in Jaitapur.

Germany

The year witnessed intense bilateral engagement between India and Germany with an exchange of visits by the Heads of Government from both sides. The momentum of bilateral ties was maintained by several exchanges of visits at all levels. Germany also continued to be India's leading trade, technology, investment and strategic partner in Europe with great relevance for India's developmental agenda.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, accompanied by Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, paid an official visit to Germany from 12-14 April 2015 to inaugurate the Hannover Messe-2015 where India participated as the Partner Country. Prime Minister and the German Chancellor jointly inaugurated the 'India Pavilion' and an Indo German Business Summit and undertook a walk-about of the fair grounds at the Hannover fair on 13 April 2015. Prime Minister elaborated on 'Make in India' and other major economic initiatives of the Government in his address to the German Industry.

India's robust participation involving 350 Indian business, 120 CEOs and 14 States at the World's premium trade fair successfully showcased the tremendous opportunities presented by an economically resurgent India and placed India firmly on the radar of German and European industries.

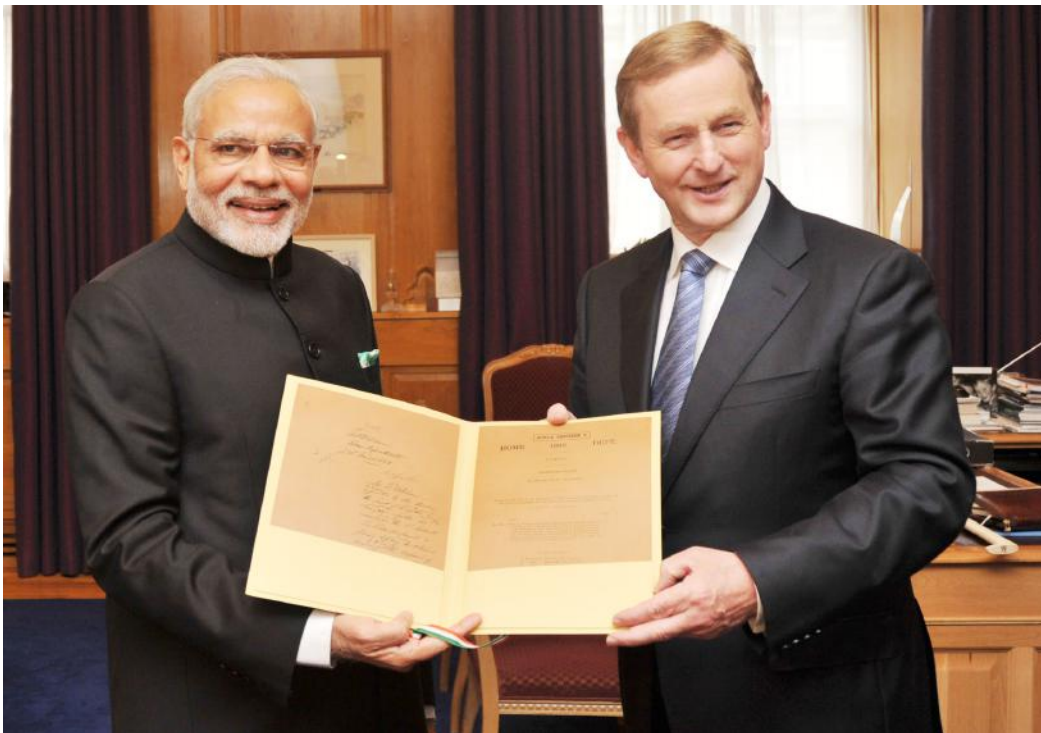
Prime Minister held delegation level talks with the German Chancellor in Hannover and Berlin. A Joint Statement for bilateral cooperation was issued by the two leaders. Building on Germany's role as our leading trade, technology and investment partner in Europe, both the leaders drew up a clear roadmap to strengthen the Indo-German Strategic Partnership and make Germany a partner of choice in India's flagship initiatives such as 'Make in India', 'Clean India', 'Digital India' and 'Skill India'.

In Hannover, Prime Minister met the Lord Mayor of Hannover and unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi. He also met a number of German CEOs. In Berlin, PM had meetings with German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel and Foreign Minister Steinmeier. He also visited the Berlin Central Railway Station and the Siemens Technical Academy. PM also addressed the Indian community in Berlin and interacted with Indian students studying in Germany.

During the Hannover Messe, 3 Government to Government Letters of Intent were signed in the fields of renewable energy, urban development and skill development. Besides these, 23 Business to Business / Semi-Governmental MoUs/ Letter of Intent were signed between various PSUs/business associations / companies in the areas of heavy electronics, solar and wind energy systems, machine tools, electrical sector, small, micro and intelligent grids, renewable technologies, etc.



Prime Minister with Chancellor of Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Dr. Angela Merkel in New Delhi (05 October 2015)



Prime Minister gifting reproductions of manuscripts & papers pertaining to two Irish officials to the Prime Minister of Ireland, Mr. Enda Kenny, at Government Buildings, Dublin on 23 September 2015

PM Narendra Modi held bilateral meetings with Chancellor Merkel during the G-4 Summit in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA on 26 October 2015.

External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Germany from 26-28 August 2015 in preparation for the visit of the German Chancellor to the India for the 3rd Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations. She called on the President of the German Bundestag, the Minister of Education & Research, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Bundestag and the German Foreign Minister.

The German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel paid an official visit to India from 4-6 October 2015 for the 3rd Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations. She was accompanied by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economic Cooperation & Development, Agriculture and Education & Research; 3 Parliamentary State Secretaries (Interior, Defence and Finance); 3 State Secretaries and a business delegation. In New Delhi, Chancellor Merkel received a ceremonial welcome, visited Rajghat and called on the Hon'ble President.

In the delegation-level talks, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister discussed a wide range of issues including bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. Building on Prime Minister's successful visit to Berlin in April 2015, both leaders issued a Joint Statement to advance collaboration in identified areas of mutual concern.

A total of 18 bilateral MoUs and Agreements were signed during the visit, in areas such as security cooperation, aviation security, disaster management, fast tracking of investments, manufacturing, skilling, innovation & higher education, railways, agriculture and plant protection, food security, language and Science and Technology. A MoU on Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership was also signed under which the German Government agreed to inter alia provide a concessional loan of Euro 1 bn over the next five years.

The German Chancellor and Prime Minister also visited Bengaluru on 6 October 2015 where they addressed a Business Summit on Industry 4.0 and attended a CEOs luncheon hosted by our Prime Minister. Both leaders also visited the German Bosch R&D Centre in Bengaluru.

During the year, a number of Ministerial and high level

visits took place from both sides. Minister of State for Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javdekar attended the 6th Petersberg Dialogue in Berlin on 18-19 May 2015. Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal participated in the Food Trade Fair ANUGA-2015 in Cologne on 11-16 October 2015.

German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen paid an official visit to India on 26-28 May 2015. She called on the Prime Minister and Raksha Mantri.

The current year has also seen a significant increase in Parliamentary Exchanges. 13 young Members of German Parliament from the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) visited India on 26-30 October 2015. A delegation of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment of the German Parliament headed by Dr. Simone Raatz visited New Delhi and Bengaluru from 15 - 21 November 2015. Similarly, a group of young Parliamentarians from India led by Shri Anurag Thakur, visited Germany on 3-8 September 2015.

During the year, meetings of several bilateral institutional mechanisms also took place, including the 8th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Vocational Education & Training (VET) held on 4 April 2015 in Berlin; the 1st meeting of the JWG on Water and JWG on Waste Management & Circular Economy held on 18 August 2015 in Bonn; 2nd meeting of India-Germany High Technology Partnership Group (HTPG) and Bilateral Consultations on Export Control held on 14-15 September 2015 in New Delhi; the 1st meeting of the JWG on Sustainable Urban Development held on 16 September 2015 in Leipzig and the 2nd India-Germany Cyber Dialogue held on 9 October 2015 in Berlin.

Germany is the largest trading partner of India in the EU and our 6th largest trading partner in the world. In 2014-15, bilateral trade between India and Germany was around USD 20.33 billion. Our exports to Germany were around USD 7.54 billion and imports from Germany amounted to USD 12.79 billion. Germany has been the 7th largest foreign direct investor in India. German FDI in India from April 2000 to January 2015 is USD 8.2 billion, accounting for 3.18% of FDI into India. At present, there are about 1600 Indo-German collaborations and about 600 Joint Ventures in operation. Indian investments in Germany are also estimated to be more than Euro 6 billion. There are more

than 215 Indian companies operating in Germany, mainly in the IT, automotives, pharma biotech sectors.

Taking forward the objectives of the 'Make in India' Programme, the Indian Embassy in Berlin launched a strategic, first-of-its-kind Investment Facilitation Programme: "Make in India Mittelstand!" (MIIM) to assist German Mittelstand (SME) companies in entering the Indian market. The Embassy published a study on "Prospects for Indo-German Collaborations in High Technology Manufacturing". The report was released by Hon'ble Prime Minister at Hannover Messe 2015 in the presence of German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel.

Germany has committed to a total fund of Euro 1.49 billion for 2015 for various development cooperation projects in India in areas like the Green Energy Corridor, Energy Efficiency, Solar Promotion Projects, Urban Infrastructure Development, Skill Development, Ganga Cleaning and Innovation in Agriculture/Food Sector.

Science and Technology cooperation has been an important pillar of the bilateral relationship. At the 3rd IGC held on 5 October 2015 in New Delhi, both sides signed a Joint Declaration to extend the tenure of the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre beyond 2017 with enhanced funding allocation upto a maximum of 4 Million Euro per year by each side. A delegation led by Dr. Georg Schütte, the State Secretary in Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the New Chair of Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR), visited New Delhi on 25 August 2015 and held meetings with their counterparts.

For the promotion of Indian culture in Germany, 2 short-term ICCR Chairs were set up in Germany in 2015 at Humboldt University, Berlin and University of Leipzig. A Sanskrit Scholar and Indologist from Germany, Dr. Annette Schmiedchen was also awarded with the Padma Shri in 2015. During the 3rd IGC, the German side returned a 10th Century stolen sculpture of Durga Mahishasurmardini to India on behalf of the Linden Museum in Stuttgart.

In the field of education, an MoU on Indo-German Partnerships in Higher Education was signed between the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and India's University Grants Commission (UGC) at the 3rd IGC. At present, more than 11,000 Indian students are pursuing various courses in Germany, while around 800

German students are studying or doing their internships in India.

An Indian delegation led by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, visited Berlin for participation in the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) held in Berlin on 14-16 January 2016.

The Indian Embassy in Berlin launched a Web Portal for facilitation of Indian students in Germany www.indianstudentsgermany.org on 17 December 2015. The Portal is aimed to interconnect and link young Indian students in Germany. In addition, prospective Indian students seeking higher educational opportunities in Germany can also get relevant information from the Portal.

Three Short-term chairs were operationalized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in Germany. The process for selection of Chairs is under way.

Ireland

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a short official visit to Ireland on 23 September 2015 en route to New York for the UN General Assembly. It was the first visit to Ireland (fastest growing economy in Europe) by an Indian Prime Minister after nearly 60 years. India has close historical links with Ireland, going back to the colonial era and our freedom movement. The visit signaled the interest on both sides to take India-Ireland ties to the next level and put in place a forward-looking roadmap for partnerships in priority sectors of mutual interest.

During the visit, Prime Minister held discussions with the Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny who was accompanied by the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health, and Minister of Education. They discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two Prime Ministers agreed to qualitatively upgrade India-Ireland relations in priority sectors such as trade and investment, research & innovation, education, tourism, agriculture, healthcare, IT, science & technology, and diaspora linkages. Both the leaders encouraged direct flight connectivity and holding of Tourism Road Shows in each others' countries to boost bilateral trade and tourism. Ireland showed understanding and receptivity to our requests for support of India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council and international export control regimes.

Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) Minister of State for External Affairs visited Ireland to represent India at the 30th Memorial Service of Air India Kanishka plane crash on 23-24 June 2015. As part of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of W. B. Yeats, the Irish poet, he unveiled a bust of Rabindranath Tagore in County Sligo. He met the Irish Foreign Minister during his visit and also on the sidelines of the ASEM Summit in Luxembourg on 5-6 November 2015.

Mr Richard Burton, Irish Minister of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation visited India to attend the Global Innovation in Services in April 2015. Dr Gulshan Rai, Special Secretary (Cyber Security) visited Ireland to participate in ICANN'54 Meeting on 18-22 October 2015.

The bilateral trade between India and Ireland grew by 23% to USD 1.2 billion in 2014-15 from USD 972 million in 2013-14 with Indian exports showing an increase of 83.34% (USD 760 million) and imports decreasing by 4.51% (USD 533 million). To promote bilateral trade and investment, the Indian Embassy supported the Annual Lunch Event of Ireland India Business Association on 18 November 2015 and the promotional campaign on 'Make in India'.

To increase two way tourism and people-to-people contact, Ireland was included in the list of countries to which e-TV facility has been extended from 15 August 2015. There has been a 14% growth in two-way tourism during the year. There are currently around 1400 Indian students studying in Irish higher educational institutions.

The International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21 June 2015 at St. Anne's Park in Dublin by the Embassy in collaboration with local Yoga institutes and the Indian community and about 500 people from all walks of life attended the event.

The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was celebrated by the Indian Embassy in Dublin on 9 January 2016. Leading members of the OCI/PIO community from Ireland attended the event. The main theme of the event was transferring knowledge and encouraging innovation and diaspora's contribution to India's social and developmental efforts.

The India Tourism Office in London participated in the Annual Tourism Exhibition 'Holiday World' in Dublin on 22-24 January 2016. Representatives from the travel and tourism industry including travel writers of prominent newspapers and magazines and government officials attended the event.

Italy

Indo-Italian economic relationship continued in areas of mutual interest during this year. India Tourism, Milan along with Air India and the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) organized the road-show "PATA-India Business Meet - Italy" on 28 October 2015 in Milan.

Bilateral ties in defence sector have been sustained, with the visit of Defence delegations from India to Italy to carry out Factory Acceptance Trials, pre-dispatch inspection and training. The Indian Naval Delegation visited M/s WASS, Livorno, Italy from 25 April-2 May 2015 to carry out Factory Acceptance Trials and also visited M/s Calzoni, Bologna, Italy from 12-16 May 2015 to carry out Factory Acceptance Trials.

An Indian Ordnance Factory Board delegation visited M/s Robbi, Verona, Italy from 5-10 July 2015 to carry out pre dispatch inspection of 01 CNC OD grinding machine and also visited M/s MCM, Montevarchi, Italy from 12-18 July 2015 to carry out pre-dispatch inspection cum training.

The bilateral trade between India and Italy from April to September, 2015 was to the tune of US\$ 4.197 billion, with Indian exports to Italy at US\$ 2.062 billion and Imports to India from Italy at US\$ 2.135 billion.

The First International Day of Yoga was celebrated enthusiastically on 21 June 2015 in Italy with the participation of over 150 schools. The response was overwhelming and a series of events were held all over the country with the support of the Mission.

Important initiatives were taken in the field of Information and Culture during the year which included various exhibitions organized within and outside the Embassy, collaboration with Municipality of Pontinia for constructing a cricket field (first of its kind in Italy) for the Indian *diaspora* in Lazio region, support and participation to the Indo-Italian bilateral Workshop on Nanomaterials, Neem-2015 (Nanoscale Excitations on Emergent Materials 2015) held in the prestigious CNR Campus in Rome, book presentations and fashion shows. Film festivals like the 'Salento Film Festival', 'Asiatica Film Mediale' and the 'River to River Indian Florence Film Festival', entirely devoted to Indian films, were also supported by the Embassy. These events were aimed to create awareness and interest in Indian culture and spiritual heritage among Italian people and to increase the Embassy's outreach to the local Indian diaspora.

In collaboration with Tourism of India office, Milan and Baglioni hotel chain, Indian Food Festival was organized in Rome and Venice from 13-21 January 2016.

Liechtenstein

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated on 21 June 2015 at the Culture Centre, Gasometer, Liechtenstein, with participation of about 30 people.

Luxembourg

India and Luxembourg continued to enjoy close and friendly relations.

The bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg, during January-July 2015, stood at €0.34 million. India's export to Luxembourg was €5.58 million in 2015, while import from Luxembourg was €6.76 million in 2015. The major items of India's exports to Luxembourg were engineering products, textiles and garments, and chemicals. The major items of India's imports from Luxembourg were engineering goods, base metals and articles of stone.

The Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar visited Luxembourg from 18-19 July 2015 to participate in the Major Economies Forum.

The 14th India- Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Commission was held in New Delhi from 28-29 September 2015. The Commerce Secretary led the Indian side while Luxembourg side was led by Mr. Leo Faber, Deputy Secretary General.

Cargolux, a Luxembourg based cargo airlines, introduced full freight services from Luxembourg to Chennai via Oman, in partnership with Oman Air in April 2015. It also introduced direct air cargo link with Chennai from 11 August 2015.

The electronic Tourist Visa (e-TV) facility was extended to Luxembourg in 2015, to boost two-way tourism flow and people-to-people contact.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh led the Indian delegation to the 12th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Luxembourg from 4-7 November 2015. He held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg.

Monaco

Bilateral relations between India and Monaco continued to remain cordial and friendly. Both countries expressed keenness to expand cooperation in trade & tourism, sports, education and environment.

The electronic-Tourist Visa (e-TV) facility was extended to Monaco in 2015 to enhance two-way tourism flow and people-to-people contact.

The Netherlands

Bilateral relations between India and the Netherlands continued to expand in various areas. The Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte paid an official visit to India on 5-6 June 2015 at the invitation of our Prime Minister. Dutch Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Ms. Lilianne Ploumen, the Minister for Agriculture Ms. Sharon Dijksma, senior officials and a large business delegation representing over 80 Dutch companies. Prime Minister Rutte had a one-to-one meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the two leaders also held delegation level talks.

The visit of the Dutch Prime Minister set the stage for upgrading bilateral ties to the next level and realize the full potential of the relationship. The Roadmap for Bilateral Cooperation agreed upon as part of the Joint Communiqué during the visit outlines a clear plan of action to leverage our strengths and complementarities in important sectors including ports, infrastructure, inland waterway, agriculture, dairy, skill development, smart cities, Clean Ganga Mission etc.

Trade and investment cooperation between the two countries remains an important component of our bilateral engagements. During the first eight months of 2015, Indian exports to the Netherlands increased by 13.84%, while total bilateral trade increased by 11.49%. FDI equity inflows from the Netherlands into India during the financial year 2015-16 (April-June) were US\$ 652 million. FDI inflows during the financial year 2014-15 totaled US\$ 3.436 billion. Total FDI inflows from Netherlands into India during the period April 2000 to June 2015 stood at US\$ 15.323 billion, accounting for 6% of total inflows making it the 5th largest country for FDI inflows into India. In the financial year 2015-16 (April-August), the Netherlands was the 30th largest trade partner

for India and the 6th largest in the EU after Germany, U.K., Belgium, Italy and France.

India-Netherlands Foreign Office Consultations were held on 4 May 2015 in The Hague led by Secretary (West) Shri Navtej Singh Sarna and Ms. Renée Jones-Bos, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism between India and the Netherlands was held on 19 June 2015 in New Delhi.

The first JWG meeting between India and the Netherlands on cooperation in the field of Healthcare & Public Health was held in the Netherlands from 28-30 September 2015. A 17-member delegation, led by the Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Mr. Karsten Klein, comprising representatives from companies, knowledge institutes and The Hague Municipality visited New Delhi and Hyderabad from 13-17 October 2015. The main focus of the mission was on IT and cyber security. Several Agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit.

The Indian Naval Ship 'Tarangini' participated in SAIL Amsterdam-2015.

The electronic Tourist Visa (e-TV) facility was extended to the Netherlands w.e.f. 15 August 2015, enabling all Dutch passport holders to obtain Indian tourist visas online.

On 14 December 2015 Jet Airways announced that from 27 March 2016, it will operate daily non-stop flights to and from Amsterdam, one each from its home hubs in Mumbai and New Delhi as well as one from Toronto in Canada.

The Embassy organized the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2016' on 9 January 2016 at the Gandhi Centre in The Hague.

The Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Mr. Karsten Klein, led a 6-member delegation to India from 21-28 January 2016.

An ICCR-sponsored Kathakali dance troupe led by Shri Nandakumaran Nair visited the Netherlands from 25-29 January 2016 coinciding with the Republic Day celebrations.

PORTUGAL

Portugal and India are working together to develop a more contemporary relationship, with business and commercial ties having primacy of place.

On 9 October 2015, Portugal became the first European country to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Nalanda University and only the fourth non- East Asia Summit (EAS) country to sign this MOU.

CTT Correios de Portugal released a Commemorative Postcard on the occasion of the first International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2015.

The Embassy of India in Lisbon organized two Business Conferences in November 2015, to generate business interest on both sides. During the year, the Embassy also launched many initiatives to promote Hindi language in Portugal. Hindi Diwas was organised by the Embassy on 23 September 2015.

The Government of India extended electronic- Tourist Visa (e-TV) facility to Portugal in 2015.

San Marino

India and San Marino continued to enjoy cordial relations. Both sides are keen to deepen bilateral cooperation in the Tourism sector, which constitutes over 50% of the GDP of San Marino. Other prominent sectors are Banking, Electronics and Ceramics Industry.

San Marino has ratified the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) relating to exchange of information relating to taxes between the two countries.

India has also proposed to extend the electronic- Tourist Visa facility to San Marino during 2015 to promote tourism and people-to-people contact.

Spain

The year 2015 witnessed an intensification of bilateral relations between India and Spain. On the political front, this was highlighted by the visit of Spanish Foreign Minister, Mr. José Garcia-Margallo to India on 27 April 2015, the first such visit in 43 years. During this visit, the two sides issued a Joint Communiqué, identifying major areas of cooperation for the future. External Affairs Minister met the Spanish Foreign Minister and the discussions were held on enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, urban development, renewable energy, defence collaboration, counter terrorism, security and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The year also saw the strengthening of bilateral defence ties. After the visit of Spanish Defence Minister, Mr. Pedro Morenes to India in January 2015, the Spanish Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. Pedro Arguelles Salaverria visited India on 27 & 28 September 2015. He called on Raksha Mantri and the first India-Spain Joint Working Group meeting on Defence Cooperation was held on 27 November 2015.

Other significant developments were the resumption of negotiations on the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and the inaugural Security Policy Dialogue held in September 2015. Several dialogues involving the civil societies of the two countries were organized by Spain-India Council Foundation. These included a Think Tank conference on global, geo-economic, defence and security Challenges and a Women's Dialogue on leadership, entrepreneurship and social impact.

On the commercial front, bilateral trade figures presented an upward trend in 2015 compared to similar period last year, fueled by the growth in Indian exports. During the period April-October 2015, Spain's exports to India dropped by 3.46% to USD 697 million, whereas India's exports to Spain increased by 2.65% to USD 1.78 billion, thus bringing the total trade to nearly USD 2.5 billion.

Commerce Secretary led a high-level Indian delegation at the International Exhibition and Conference on Pharmaceutical Ingredients (CPhI Worldwide), the largest international trade fair of chemical and pharmaceutical industry that took place in Madrid from 13-15 October 2015. It witnessed a sizeable participation from the Indian Pharma industry represented by 273 companies.

Pursuant to the Joint Communiqué issued in April 2015, India and Spain have formulated their Core Groups to chalk out a calendar of events for the year 2016 to commemorate 60 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. India and Spain plan to celebrate this important landmark with a series of events across sectors.

Spain witnessed one of the most enthusiastic celebrations of the first International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2015.

A New Year's Concert by Dr L Subramaniam and Ensemble with Symphony Orchestra of Castilla Y León was organised on 9 January 2016. The official logo for the 60th anniversary of India-Spain diplomatic relations celebrations was launched on 26 January 2016.

United Kingdom

India's unique relationship with UK and the 11-year old strategic partnership was substantively upgraded with the Prime Minister's visit to the UK from 12-14 November 2015. This was the first official bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister after 2006. Prime Minister had a well rounded programme reflecting all important elements of the partnership that included bilateral discussions with UK Prime Minister Cameron, interaction with Her Majesty the Queen, UK Parliamentarians and the large Indian diaspora, address to the City of London and interaction with businesses.

During the visit, the two leaders agreed to forge a modern partnership with deeper security collaboration in nuclear, defence and cyber areas including through technology transfer and skilling and close partnership in India's flagship development projects such as infrastructure building, Smart Cities, Clean India and Clean Energy. Prime Minister Cameron reaffirmed UK's continued support to countering terrorism and India's inclusion in global decision making through membership of the UNSC, multilateral export control regimes and greater voice in international financial institutions.

5 outcome documents were issued by the two Prime Ministers during the visit including a Vision Statement outlining an ambitious vision to upgrade the relationship; a Joint Statement highlighting initiatives to deepen the bilateral partnership in a wide range of areas including economic cooperation, urban development, education, skill development, science & technology, health and culture; a new Defence and International Security Partnership to deepen collaboration in combating global threats and enhance cooperation in defence, counter terrorism, cyber security, maritime security and organized crime; a Partnership for Cooperation in Third Countries to leverage mutual competencies to assist developing countries in addressing their development challenges; and a Joint Statement on Energy and Climate Change to address climate change and promote affordable and sustainable supplies of energy.

To maintain exchanges at the highest level and give further momentum to the partnership, India and UK agreed to hold biennial Summits at Prime Minister-level. An Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation was signed with UK covering the full nuclear cycle marking a substantive step forward in the

strategic partnership. Twelve agreements were announced during the visit in the areas of civil nuclear cooperation, energy cooperation, integrated medicine, governance reforms, UK's cooperation with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, technical cooperation in Railways, Partnership for cooperation in third countries, establishment of fast-track mechanism for UK's investments into India, Cooperation in Ease of Doing Business, Skill Development, Crop Sciences, Climate Change, Agriculture, Antimicrobial Resistance and Vaccine Development.

The robust India-UK economic engagement was further reinforced by several important initiatives in this area during the Prime Minister's visit to UK. It was agreed that the City

of London could play an important role in channeling investments into Indian infrastructure projects, leveraging its capital and expertise. Government of India announced its intention to issue the first Government-backed Rupee Bond in London and several private sector entities including HDFC, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and Yes Bank announced their plans to raise finance through the City of London.

During Prime Minister's visit to UK, the inaugural meeting of the revived India-UK CEO Forum was convened by the two Prime Ministers. Commercial deals worth over £9.3 billion between Indian and British companies were announced. It was decided to establish a fast-track mechanism to facilitate



Prime Minister being welcomed by Prime Minister David Cameron during his official welcome in London (12 November 2015)

UK's investments into India and to set up an India-UK Partnership fund under the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) to facilitate global investments through the City of London for Indian infrastructure projects. UK has announced its interest in partnering with India in the development of Smart Cities in Indore, Pune and Amravati.

High-level exchanges in the area of economic cooperation during the year included the visit by Minister of State for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy to UK in May 2015 to hold bilateral discussions; visit of Chief Minister of West Bengal to UK in July 2015 to attract investments from UK into West Bengal; visit of UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills Sajid Javid and UK Minister of State for Trade Lord Francis Maude to India in September 2015; visit of Minister for Railways to UK in October 2015 to discuss investments in Indian Railway Infrastructure projects and areas of mutual cooperation in the Railways sector.

The India-UK Financial Partnership (IUKFP) dialogue was held in London on 2 November 2015 led by Mr. Uday Kotak of Kotak Mahindra Bank and Sir Gerry Grimstone, Chairman of Standard Life Insurance. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India also participated in the discussions that focussed on the development of India's Corporate Bond Market, Pension Infrastructure and improving India's new insolvency regulations.

Defence cooperation between India and UK is steered by the Defence Consultative Group (DCG) co-chaired by our Defence Secretary and UK Permanent Under Secretary of Defence. The Executive Steering Group (ESG) met in July 2015 and the Defence Equipment Sub Group (DESG) met in October 2015 which constitute parallel platforms to advance cooperation in this sector.

During the Prime Minister's visit to UK, a new Defence and International Security Partnership was launched marking an important step forward in the strategic partnership. It was agreed to intensify defence collaboration to enable transfer of strategic capabilities including defence technologies, joint R&D in new areas and indigenous defence projects under 'Make in India'.

Bilateral exchanges in the area of defence during the year included: visit by our Minister of State for Defence to UK

to attend the Defence and Security International Exhibition in September 2015; visit by Chief of our Army Staff to UK in June 2015; Joint Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior 2015' between 16 KUMAON Regiment of Indian Army and 1 RIFLES of the British Army in June 2015 at Salisbury Plains training area; India-UK Joint Exercise 'Indradhansh' with the Royal Air Force in July 2015; visit by the Indian Naval Sail Training Ship INS Tarangini to Plymouth, UK in July 2015; participation of the Indian Naval Ship INS Trikand in the 'Konkan'-2015 Joint Exercises with the Royal Navy Ship HMS Iron Duke in September 2015 in UK waters off Plymouth; and Training of defence services officers including training of Indian officers at the Royal College of Defence Services and Joint Services Command & Staff College in the UK and British officers at National Defence College, Dehradun and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

Collaboration in the education sector is led at the highest-level by the India-UK Education Forum chaired by the Education Ministers of the two countries. Bilateral cooperation in this sector is anchored in the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI), a multi-stakeholder partnership programme supported by the two Governments on the core principle of mutual benefit initiated in April 2006. Phase III of UKIERI is due to be implemented from 1 April 2016 with an annual investment of £2.5 million per year from both India and UK. The focus of UKIERI Phase III would be Research Partnership Incubation, Skill Development and Leadership Development.

Important announcements in the area of education during the Prime Minister's visit to UK include: (i) Announcement of 2016 as the India-UK Year of Education, Research and Innovation, (ii) 100 UK academics to teach in Indian educational institutions over the next 2 years under the GIAN programme; (iii) 25,000 UK students to visit India for education and internships, with 1000 UK students being trained in IT by TCS in India; and (iv) virtual partnerships between schools. A partnership in Skills was also agreed to under which UK will establish new Centres of Excellence in key sectors, starting with a centre for automotive skilling in Pune.

In the area of health cooperation, an MOU between Ministry of AYUSH and a leading UK institute London Hospital of Integrated Medicine was signed during the Prime Minister's visit to strengthen cooperation in the field of research

and education in the area of integrated medicine. Other significant initiatives in the area of health include: (i) setting up of a joint India-UK Vaccine Development collaboration (ii) establishment of a strategic group on anti-microbial resistance at the genomic level (iii) signing of agreements between King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Indo UK Healthcare Pvt Ltd to launch King's College Hospital in Chandigarh. India and UK also agreed to contribute their scientific expertise to a global summit to be held in London in 2016 as part of the initiative of the Department of Biotechnology, and the Research Councils, Government of UK on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Science & Technology cooperation is the fastest growing element of India-UK cooperation. The Newton-Bhabha fund established in 2014 for joint research, capacity building and translation spearheads India-UK S&T cooperation. Joint investment has grown from less than £1 million in 2008 to over £200 million today with investments of around £72 million during 2015. During the PM's visit to UK, it was announced that UK will be the partner country for the 2016 Technology Summit to be held in New Delhi. Agreements were signed for cooperation in the areas of Crop Science, Climate Change, Agricultural Research, Vaccine Development and Antimicrobial Resistance. New substantial investments include UK-India virtual centres in Clean Energy, Water Security and Agricultural Nitrogen.

High-level exchanges include visit of a delegation from the Department of Bio- Technology led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences to UK in May 2015 and visit of UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Amber Rudd in September 2015 to strengthen bilateral cooperation on energy and reach common ground for a global climate change agreement.

India and UK cooperate in the area of counter terrorism and cyber security under the institutionalised mechanism of Joint Working Groups that meet every year on a regular basis. With the launch of the new Defence and International Security Partnership, India and UK agreed to further strengthen their cooperation in counter terrorism and cyber security. During the Prime Minister's visit to UK, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate in countering terrorism and extremism and to disrupt support for terrorist networks including ISIL, Al Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the Haqqanis and associated groups. They also

committed to support early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in cyber security by working towards finalizing MoUs on cyber crime and cyber forensic cooperation, telecom testing and security certification, establishment of new Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre and early conclusion of a CERT-CERT MoU.

India and UK share unique cultural ties characterized by long historical ties and a 1.5 million strong Indian diaspora in UK. The First International Yoga Day was enthusiastically celebrated in UK on 21 June 2015 with various activities organized by the High Commission of India in London, Consulate General of India in Edinburgh and Consulate General of India in Birmingham and other voluntary organizations. Lord Bilimoria, Independent Crossbench Peer, led the First Annual UN International Yoga Day Celebrations on 23 June 2015 in the UK Parliament to demonstrate the benefits of Yoga. PM Cameron and UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office Minister Hugo Swire issued messages in support on the occasion.

Indian diaspora in UK has made significant contributions to British life and society and acts as a living bridge in furthering India-UK ties. Prime Minister addressed a massive gathering of over 60,000 people in the Indian Diaspora event at Wembley Stadium on 13 November 2015 with Prime Minister David Cameron. During the Prime Minister's visit, it was announced that 2017 will be celebrated as India-UK year of Culture to mark the 70th anniversary of Indian independence.

Continuing the impetus of bilateral cooperation generated during Prime Minister's visit to UK in November 2015, UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Sajid Javid visited India from 9-11 December 2015. Minister Sajid Javid and the Human Resource Development Minister of India launched- 2016 as the 'UK-India Year of Education, Research and Innovation'. During the visit, the 'Midlands Engine' Initiative in partnership with FCCI to promote British Midlands as a hub for innovation and manufacturing was launched on 9 December 2015.

The Minister of Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan and UK Minister of State for Universities and Science Jo Johnson (who visited New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru from 9-11 December 2015) jointly announced UK's participation as Partner Country in India's 2016 Technology

Summit and Knowledge Expo. Jo Johnson also announced an extension of the UK's Newton Fund until 2021 and new research partnerships under the Newton-Bhabha Fund.

An MOU was signed on 11 December 2015 to promote bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between the Union Territory of Chandigarh and Nottingham City Council.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

External Affairs Minister (EAM) led the Indian delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Malta on 27- 28 November 2015.



Family Photo of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Malta on 27- 28 November 2015

Canada

Our bilateral relations have seen significant transformation in recent years. The present bilateral relations are underpinned by high level interactions covering political, security, trade and economic spheres. The relationship witnessed a new momentum with the visit of Prime Minister to Canada in April 2015.

Following the victory of the Liberal Party in the Federal elections in Canada on 19 October 2015, Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Trudeau on 21 October 2015 and sent a congratulatory letter. Inviting Prime Minister Trudeau to visit India, Prime Minister said that he looks forward to work with the new government in Canada.

Visit of Prime Minister to Canada (14-16 April 2015)

Prime Minister paid a visit to Canada from 14-16 April 2015 covering Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. This was the first stand-alone visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Canada in 42 years. In the Joint Statement issued after the visit “नया उत्साह; नए कदम : *New Vigour; New Steps*” both leaders agreed to elevate their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership and take concrete measures to expand bilateral cooperation in key areas including economy, trade and investment, civil nuclear cooperation, energy, education and skills development, agriculture, defence and security, science, technology, innovation and space, culture and people to people ties.

Prime Minister held extensive discussions with Canada’s political, business and academic leaders including Governor General David Johnston, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Ms. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Ms. Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia and as well the leader of the Liberal Party Mr. Justin Trudeau. Prime Minister

also jointly laid a wreath with Prime Minister Harper at the Kanishka Air India Memorial Site in Toronto. Prime Minister interacted with the CEOs of Canada’s pension funds and other investors and addressed a strong gathering of 10,000 people from Indian diaspora in Toronto.

The key outcomes of the visit included signing of an agreement on procurement of uranium from Canada, MoUs on cooperation in the field of outer space, railway transportation, civil aviation and 13 MoUs on skill development. Prime Minister Harper handed over a 12th century sculpture of ‘*Parrot Lady*’ (sandstone sculpture of a lady holding a peacock).

Canada is home to over 1.2 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) who comprise more than 3% of the country’s population. In order to expand people-to-people ties, during his visit to Canada, Prime Minister announced the Electronic Travel Authorization for Canadian nationals. Long term visa of 10 years for the Canadian nationals was also announced.

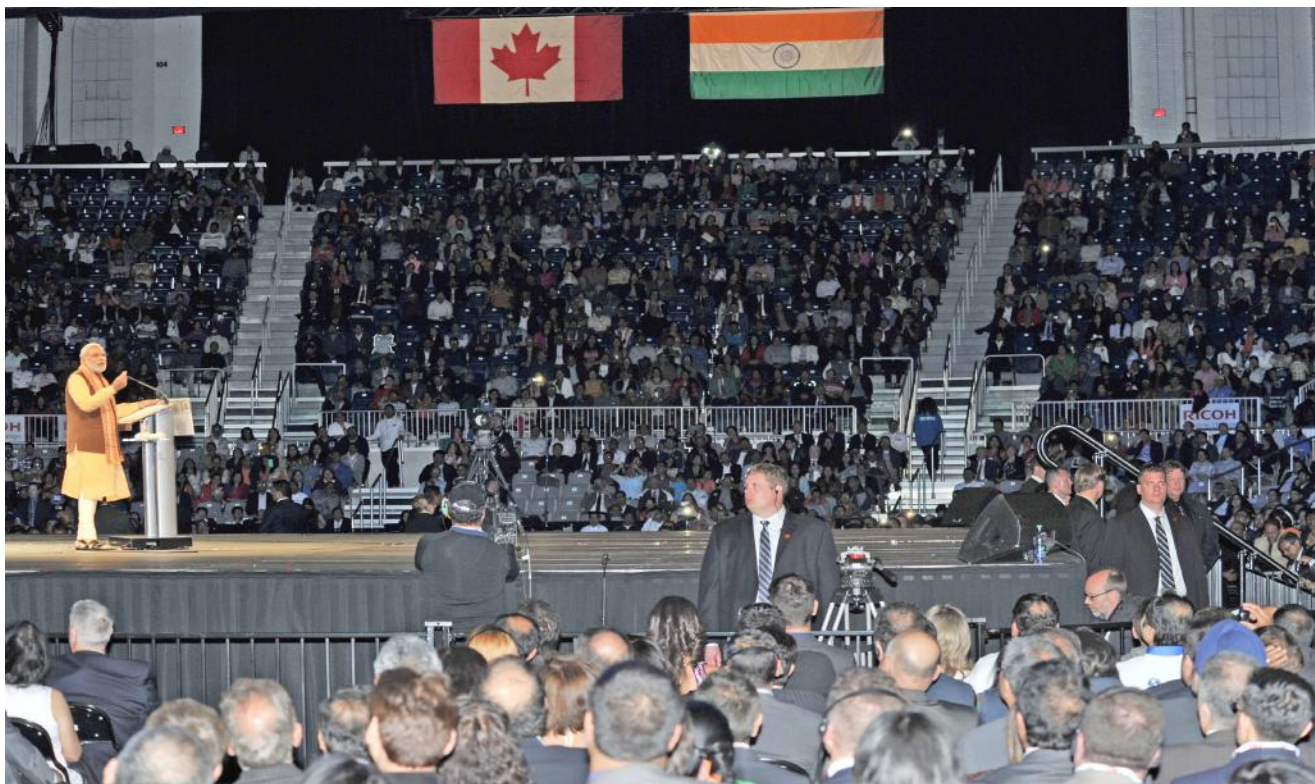
Other Political Visits

From Indian side, the visits are:

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas led the Indian delegation for 2nd India Canada Energy Dialogue from 3-6 July 2015.
- Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana led a delegation to Canada from 21-27 August 2015.

The Ministerial visits from Canada are:

- Minister of Finance, British Columbia Michael de Jong, visited India (Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai) from 6-13 December 2015.
- Premier of Ontario, Ms. Kathleen Wynne led a trade



Prime Minister addressing at the Diaspora event in Toronto (15 April 2015)

mission to India from 28 January-7 February 2016 and visited Delhi, Amritsar, Hyderabad, Mumbai.

- Premier of Prince Edward Island, Wade MacLauchlan, led a trade delegation to India from 31 January-7 February 2016.
- Lyle Stewart, Minister of Agriculture, Canada visited India from 14-20 February 2016.

Energy

Energy has been a primary area of our focus, considering that Canada is an 'energy superpower' with one of the world's largest resources of uranium, natural gas, oil, coal, minerals and advanced technologies in hydropower, mining, renewable energy and nuclear energy.

The 2nd India Canada Energy dialogue was held on 5 July 2015 in Calgary, Canada. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and the Canadian delegation was led by Minister for Natural Resources Mr. Greg Rickford. Both sides agreed to advance energy collaboration and promote

two-way trade and investment in an action-oriented manner through government-to-government, business-to-business and regulator-to-regulator interaction.

Indian Oil has acquired 10% participating interest in Pacific North West (PNW), LNG Project, British Columbia.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

During the visit of Prime Minister to Canada, Department of Atomic Energy and M/S CAMECO Inc., Canada signed an agreement for supply of 3000 metric tonnes of uranium ore concentrate to India in 2015-2020. The first shipment of uranium arrived in India in December 2015.

The Arrangement for regulatory cooperation between Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) of India & Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission was signed on the sidelines of IAEA General Conference in September 2015 in Vienna.

The 3rd India Canada Joint Committee Meeting on Civil Nuclear Cooperation was held in Mumbai on 16 October 2015. The meeting discussed, *inter alia*, Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and status of bilateral industries collaboration. Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCI), an

association of Canadian suppliers to the Nuclear Industry in Canada, visited India from 12-17 October 2015 to participate in India Nuclear Summit.

Finance, Trade and Industry

Bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 4.48 billion in 2014. Indian FDI in 2014 was US\$ 2781.1 million as against Canadian FDI of US\$ 789.6 million in India. To spur bilateral trade and economic ties both sides are actively negotiating CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) and BIPPA (Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement). The ninth round of CEPA negotiations took place in New Delhi on 19-20 March 2015. The last round of BIPPA negotiations was held on 19-22 May 2015.

Canadian Pension Funds in particular, which have over \$700 billion under management and have already invested over \$ 6 billion in India, are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for long term investments.

Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar visited Canada from 21-27 August 2015 Canada to promote Haryana as an investment destination and businesses and seek cooperation in the areas of education, skill development, healthcare and energy.

In order to promote investments three official-level delegations went to Canada in 2015. They were led by Smt. Aradhana Johri, Secretary, Department of Disinvestment, Government of India (7-11 September 2015), Shri Jagmohan Singh, Principal Secretary-Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu (20-22 July 2015) and Dr. Prem S. Meena, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra (September 2015).

In October 2015, Eric Dagenais, Assistant Deputy Minister of Spectrum, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Canada, visited Bangalore to attend CeBIT India event and participated in Canada-India Business Council's Annual Business Summit in Mumbai.

Defence

The Joint Statement issued during Prime Minister's visit to Canada identified collaboration in cold climate warfare, peacekeeping and participation in respective Defence Staff College training. An Indian Army officer participated in Canadian Army Winter training at Valcartier, Quebec on 1-5 February 2016.

India and Canada signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) on Cooperation between DRDO and Canada's Defence Research and Development Council on 14 January 2015.

Science and Technology

The 5th India-Canada Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) meeting was held in Ottawa on 12 June 2015. The meeting was co-Chaired by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology and Ms. Christine Hogan, Deputy Minister of International Trade. The meeting finalized Action Plan proposals for 2015 in the area of Biotechnology and Health, Environment, Infrastructure, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Energy Security and Nanotechnology.

Space

India and Canada are pursuing successful cooperative and commercial relations in the field of Space since 1990s. mainly on space science, earth observation, satellite launch services and ground support for space missions. On 28 September 2015 India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, (PSLV-C30) launched NLS-14 (Ev9), a Nanosatellite from Space Flight Laboratory, University of Toronto Institute for Advanced Studies (SFL, UTIAS), Canada.

Agriculture

Shri RK Singh, Joint Secretary, Seeds and Culture - International Cooperation led a delegation to Ottawa for the 4th India-Canada Joint Working Group on Agriculture from 4-5 February 2016.

People-to People ties

The India Canada Social Security Agreement came to force on 1 August 2015.

Air Canada has resumed direct non-stop flights from Toronto to New Delhi from 2 November 2015.

Komagata Maru centenary celebration was held from 23-29 May 2015 in Vancouver. Shri Pramod Jain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, participated at the event.

International Yoga Day

High Commission of India, Ottawa in collaboration with the Indo-Canadian Associations of Ottawa and Montreal organized the First International Day of Yoga in Ottawa on

21 June 2015. Mayor of Ottawa, Jim Watson was the Chief Guest. Yoga Day was also organized in CGI Vancouver and Toronto.

United States

Both India and the United States have a robust Strategic Partnership, based on shared values, convergent strategic perspectives and economic and systemic complementarities. Summit-level interactions and high-level visits have led to sustained momentum in bilateral ties. Prime Minister's second visit to the US in September 2015 succeeded in aligning the India-US partnership firmly behind India's developmental needs. 2015 saw intense engagement in almost all areas of India-US bilateral cooperation covering areas such as defence and internal security, trade and investment, education, science and technology, energy, civil nuclear cooperation, space, education, health and people-to-people ties.

Summit Interactions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his second visit to the United States from 23-28 September 2015 and visited New York and San Jose, California State. The visit built on Prime Minister's earlier visit to New York and Washington DC in September 2014 and US President Barack Obama's visit to New Delhi in January 2015.

In New York, apart from his UN related engagements, Prime Minister met US President Barack Obama on 28 September 2015. The visit reinforced the strong leadership connect between Prime Minister and US President Barack Obama and acknowledged the significant progress that had been made in implementing the decisions of the last two Summit meetings.

Prime Minister also attended a round table on the financial sector; a round table on Media, Technology and Communications and also interacted with top Fortune 500 CEOs. He held one-on-one meetings with a number of leading CEOs. The Prime Minister strongly pitched India as an investment destination and outlined the measures being taken by the government to attract further investment to the country. The CEOs commended the Prime Minister on the economic reforms that have been undertaken and provided their suggestions on further steps.

Prime Minister's visit to San Jose was aimed at further strengthening India-US technology, investment, renewable

energy and human resource partnership. California's technology, enterprise, capital and people-to-people connectivity with India hold strong relevance for our own development priorities. This was the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to the West Coast of the US since 1982.

In San Jose, the Prime Minister met the CEOs of several US technology companies including Apple, Microsoft, Google, Qualcomm, Cisco, and Adobe. Prime Minister also visited Google headquarters; and was featured in a town hall meeting at Facebook's headquarters. In all these interactions, the focus was on the importance of digital technologies for improved governance and faster service delivery and how the global IT companies can partner with India to make a transformative impact on the lives of all Indians.

The Digital India Technology event saw participation of a large number of prominent CEOs/Founders/Equivalents from top global companies. Prime Minister outlined the various efforts being made to implement the vision of the Digital India programme. These include the aggressive expansion of the National Optical Fibre Network that will take broadband to 600,000 villages; expansion of public Wi-Fi hotspots in the country and announcement of a partnership with Google to launch public Wi-Fi hotspots at 500 railway stations; and the setting up of Common Service Centres in villages and towns. In addition, several US technology companies announced their plans to enhance their engagement in India.

The Prime Minister attended a roundtable on renewable energy sector, in collaboration with the US Department of Commerce and Stanford University. Participants included US policy makers, academics, CEOs and investors in the renewable energy space. He also visited Tesla Motors. Considering India's resolve to follow a green path to growth and increase the role of renewable energy in India's energy basket, these interactions succeeded in outlining to the US interlocutors the link between India's needs and the US capabilities.

The Prime Minister addressed the India-US Startup Konnect 2015, an event coordinated by National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) in partnership with TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) and IIM Ahmedabad's CIIE (Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship) wherein 36 startups from India participated in an exhibition. The interactions were aimed to kick start the startup revolution



Prime Minister at Digital India Dinner in San Jose during his visit to San Jose (26 September 2015)



Prime Minister visits Facebook Headquarters during his visit to San Jose (27 September 2015)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with President Barack Obama in New York on the sidelines of 70th UNGA

in India and help India benefit from the ecosystem in Silicon Valley. Seven Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)/Letters of Intent (LoIs) were signed at the event to strengthen the India US partnership to boost technology, innovation and startups.

The Prime Minister also interacted with the Indian Diaspora. This was significant for further strengthening people-to-people ties considering that the 3 million strong Indian American community provides important underpinnings to overall bilateral relations.

Other Summit-Level Bilateral Interaction

Prime Minister met President Barack Obama in Paris on 30 November 2015 on the sidelines of COP 21. In addition to the climate change agenda, both leaders discussed steps to further deepen the bilateral strategic partnership.

President Barack Obama spoke on phone with Prime Minister on 10 November 2015 to convey Diwali wishes, and also to review joint efforts on key areas of bilateral cooperation and touch upon global issues ahead of the G-20 Summit, East Asia Summit, and Paris Climate Conference. This was the first use of secure hotline between the two leaders. The decision to establish hotlines between Prime Minister and US President was made during the visit of President Obama in January 2015.

Prime Minister also received a telephone call from US President Barack Obama on 8 December 2015 during which both leaders underscored their strong commitment to address issues related to Climate Change discussed in the Paris Conference through constructive engagement, without impeding the progress of developing countries. Prime Minister also expressed his condolences for the loss of life in San Bernardino shooting. On 16 December 2015, President Obama again spoke on phone with Prime Minister to thank him for his leadership in achieving the climate agreement in Paris.

First Strategic and Commercial Dialogue

During the visit of US President Obama to India in January 2015, it was agreed to expand the bilateral Strategic Dialogue into a Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. The first meeting of Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) took place in

Washington DC on 22 September 2015. Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation to the S&CD. The delegation included Minister of State (IC) for Commerce & Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal. The US delegation included Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz.

Discussions were held on various bilateral issues including strategic, defence and security; energy and environment; science & technology & space; health, education and human development; third country engagement; economy and finance; trade and investment etc. A Joint Statement as well as a Joint Declaration on Combating Terrorism were issued.

Official level Sub Group Meeting of India-US Energy Dialogue (16-18 September 2015); Secretary-level India-US Health Dialogue (17-18 September, 2015); Ministerial India-US Energy Dialogue (21 September 2015); India-US CEO Forum (21 September 2015); Secretary-level India-US Joint Working Group on Climate Change (21 September 2015) preceded the S & CD.

Other Major Exchanges in 2015

There have been a number of high-level visits in both directions in 2015. Important incoming Ministerial visits include: Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx (7-13 April 2015); Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter (2-4 June 2015); US Ambassador to UN and member of President Obama's Cabinet Samantha Power (18-20 November 2015).

Congressman David McKinley (Republican-West Virginia) along with Congresswoman Michelle Grisham (Democrat-New Mexico) and Congressman Trent Kelly (Republican-Mississippi) visited India on 16-18 October 2015. In addition, five member Congressional delegation (Congressman Mr. Ami Bera (D-California); Congressman Mr. Derek Kilmer (D-Washington); Congressman Mr. Billy Long (R-Missouri); Congressman Mr. Juan Vargas (D-California); Congressman Mr. Brendan Boyle (D-Pennsylvania) visited New Delhi, Agra, Bengaluru and Mumbai on 18-23 January 2016. Other visits include: Mayor of Houston Annise Parker (23-24 April 2015); Lt. Governor of Michigan Brian Calley (4-9 October 2015); and Governor of Virginia Terry McAuliffe (16-21 November 2015).

From the Indian side, Ministerial visits include the following:

1. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj (for the International Yoga Day celebrations from 20-22 June 2015; for the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue from 21-22 September 2015; and to take part in UN General Assembly meetings and the first India-US-Japan Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue from 29 September-2 October 2015)
2. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar (7-10 December 2015 at the invitation of Dr. Ashton Carter, US Defense Secretary).
3. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley (for the Spring meeting of the IMF/World Bank from 17-19 April 2015; for an Investment Mission from 17-24 June 2015; for an investors' meet from 4-6 October 2015);
4. MOS (IC) for Environment, Forests & Climate Change Prakash Javadekar (for the Major Economies' Forum meeting from 19-20 April 2015);
5. MOS(IC) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal (for the United Nations Sustainable Energy for all (SE4ALL) conference in New York and to attend the bilateral meetings in Washington DC from 19 - 22 May 2015; for the India-US Energy Dialogue and Strategic and Commercial Dialogue on 21-22 September 2015 and to attend the Climate and Clean Energy Investment Forum hosted by US Secretary of State on 20-21 October 2015);
6. MOS(IC) for Commerce & Industry Nirmala Sitharaman (for the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue on 21-22 September 2015; for the Trade Policy Forum meeting on 28-29 October 2015; and Fortune Global Forum on 3-4 November 2015)

Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis visited the US from 29 June-8 July 2015 on a trade and investment mission. Similarly, Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar also led a delegation to US in August 2015 on an investment Mission. In addition, there have been numerous visits of Parliamentarians, and senior officials in both directions.

Strategic Consultations

There have been regular contacts at political and official levels on bilateral, regional and global issues. It was also decided at the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue to launch new High Level Consultations led by the US Deputy Secretary of State and Foreign Secretary, which was held in New Delhi on 7 December 2015. In addition, during the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue, a new Diplomacy Partnership between the Department of State and the Ministry of External Affairs was also announced which would include a new Policy Planning Dialogue. Accordingly, the first Policy Planning Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 18 November 2015.

The functional level India-Japan-US trilateral was held on 25-26 June 2015 in Hawaii. The inaugural India-US-Japan Ministerial Trilateral took place on 29 September 2015 on the sidelines of the 70th United Nations General Assembly in New York. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, United States Secretary of State John Kerry and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida led the respective delegations.

Foreign Office Consultations, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, took place in New Delhi on 29 April 2015.

India-US West Asia dialogue was held in New Delhi on 29 April 2015. The two sides had the first round of strategic consultations covering Africa on 29 April 2015.

India-US Global Issues Forum co-chaired by Secretary (Multilateral and Economic Relations) Sujata Mehta and US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights Sarah Sewall was held in New Delhi on 14 January 2016.

Defence

Defence and Security cooperation is a key component of the bilateral strategic partnership between India and the United States, and has evolved to become a vital pillar of engagement between the two countries. US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter visited India from 2-4 June 2015 and Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar visited the US from 7-10 December 2015 marking a reciprocal exchange of Ministerial visits within a calendar year. Secretary Carter also met Defence Minister on the sidelines of the ADMM+ meeting in Kuala Lumpur in early November 2015.

The 'New Framework for the India-US Defence Relationship' was renewed during the visit of Secretary Carter to India in June 2015, to guide the defence relationship for the next ten years.

During the visit of Raksha Mantri to the US, both sides committed to identifying additional projects for possible co-development and co-production of high technology items that meet the transformational intent of DTTI. He was the first Indian Defence Minister to visit the headquarters of US Pacific Command in Hawaii. He observed, with Secretary Carter, the flight operations aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69).

The apex policy-level consultative mechanism in defence field is the Defence Policy Group (DPG), co-chaired by Defence Secretary with his US counterpart. The last meeting of the DPG was held in Washington DC on 17-18 November 2015. The sub-groups of the DPG, namely Defense Procurement and Production Group (DPPG), Senior Technology Security Group (STSG), Joint Technical Group (JTG), Military Cooperation Group (MCG) and the Executive Steering Groups (ESGs) meet annually and report to the DPG. All these meetings have been held in 2015.

India and the US have decided to simplify technology transfer and explore possibilities of co-development and co-production of defence systems under the India-US Defence Technology & Trade Initiative (DTTI). The last round of DTTI talks were held from 16-18 November 2015 in Washington DC. The Project Agreements for two DTTI projects namely, Mobile Electric Hybrid Power Source (MEHPS) and New Generation Protective Ensemble (NGPE) were signed in August 2015. Meetings were also held of the two working groups, which have been constituted under DTTI namely (i) Working Group on aircraft carrier technology cooperation (in the US in August 2015 and in India in February 2016) and (ii) Jet Engine Technology Joint Working Group (in Bengaluru in December 2015).

The Naval Exercise Malabar was conducted successfully from 14-19 October 2015 in the Bay of Bengal. For the first time, Japan participated in the Exercise Malabar conducted off the Indian coast. The bilateral Army Exercise Yudh Abhyas was held at Joint Base Lewis McChord in Washington State from 9-23 September 2015 to develop interoperability by sharing techniques, tactics and procedures and familiarization of weapons & equipment. The bilateral Combined Special

Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar was conducted in Seattle from 17-30 January 2016.

As part of high level mil-to-mil exchanges, Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha visited the USA from 18-23 May 2015. US Secretary of Navy Ray Mabus visited India from 10-13 April 2015. Secretary of Army John McHugh visited India from 18-23 August 2015. US Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John M. Richardson visited India from 2-6 February 2016 to participate in the International Fleet Review hosted by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.

India has been assisting the US Government humanitarian missions to recover the remains of fallen US soldiers during World War II in India. The US Defense Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) Mission, located in Hawaii, conducted a search and recovery mission in Arunachal Pradesh from 27 September- 12 December 2015.

Counter-terrorism and internal security

At the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue held in September 2015, India and the US endorsed a Joint Declaration on Combatting Terrorism, in which both sides reaffirmed their commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms. The two sides reiterated the threat posed by entities such as Al-Qa'ida and its affiliates, Lashkar-e-Tayibba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, D Company, and the Haqqani Network, and other regional groups that seek to undermine stability in South Asia and also identified specific steps to further strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation.

The fourth India-US Cyber Dialogue took place in Washington DC from 10-12 August 2015. The US side was led by the US Cybersecurity Coordinator and Special Assistant to the President Michael Daniel and Indian side by Deputy National Security Advisor Arvind Gupta. The two delegations identified a variety of opportunities for increased collaboration on cyber security capacity-building, cyber security research and development, combatting cybercrime, international security, and Internet governance.

India- US Terrorist Designation Workshop was held in New Delhi from 22-24 July 2015.

An MHA-led delegation consisting of Police Commissioners of 4 megacities in India - Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and

Chennai visited New York and Washington DC from 16-20 November 2015 to strengthen bilateral cooperation in megacity policing.

Economic and Commercial Relations

India-US trade and commercial engagement continued to expand in 2015 with healthy growth in trade (in goods and services), investment and technology partnerships.

During 2014-15, Indian goods exports to the US amounted to US\$ 42.45 billion (against US\$ 39.14 billion in 2013-14) which accounted for 13.67% of India's global exports. Indian imports amounted to US\$ 21.82 billion (against US\$ 22.51 billion in 2013-14) which accounted for 4.87 % of India's total import over the same period. The trade surplus of US\$ 20.63 billion is in favour of India (against US\$ 16.64 billion in 2013-14). The US is India's second largest trading partner in goods.

During the year 2013 (the latest year for which complete data on services trade is available), bilateral trade in services totalled \$66.06 billion, of which US exports of services to India amounted to \$34.84 billion and India's exports of services to the U.S. added up to \$31.22 billion.

FDI from the US has increased from \$806 million in 2013-14 to \$1.8 billion in 2014-15 marking an increase of 126% making the US 6th largest investor in India. Cumulative FDI Equity Inflows from the US to India from April 2000 to September 2015 stood at \$ 14.6 billion.

The 9th round of the India-US Trade Policy Forum met on 29 October 2015 in Washington D.C. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge) Nirmala Sitharaman along with US Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Michael Froman. A range of trade and investment issues, in particular in the areas of, (i) Agriculture, (ii) Services, (iii) Promoting Investment in Manufacturing, and (iv) Intellectual Property were discussed as part of the TPF agenda.

5th round of negotiations with US on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) was held on 30 March- 1 April 2015 in New Delhi. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the revised Model Text for the Indian Bilateral Investment Treaty on 16 December 2015.

During the visit of US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx to India in April 2015, US announced India's upgradation to Category 1 rating under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme. An MoU was signed during the visit between the Ministry of Railways, Road Transport and Shipping and the US Department of Transportation for establishing a bilateral Transportation Partnership.

Second meeting of India-US Infrastructure Collaboration Platform was held via Digital Video Conference on 9 July 2015. The second meeting of Indo-US Investment Initiative was held on 4 November 2015 in New Delhi in which several potential policy measures that could deepen India's capital markets and drive greater US investment into India were discussed. Substantial progress was achieved in development of three smart cities in Ajmer, Allahabad and Visakhapatnam in cooperation with the US. A large trade delegation led by US Deputy Secretary of Commerce Bruce Andrews visited Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai on 7-12 February 2016 to identify specific projects under the Smart City initiative.

India signed an agreement with the US to improve international tax compliance and to implement the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) on 9 July 2015 in New Delhi to promote transparency between the two nations on tax matters. This Agreement came into effect from 31 August 2015. In compliance of this Agreement, the Competent Authority Agreement & Notification (CAA) was signed by both countries on 18 September 2015 to invoke automatic exchange of FATCA-compliant information from calendar year 2014 onwards. On 3 June 2015, India also joined Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (MCAA) to fight against the menace of black money.

India and the US held discussions on a possible bilateral Social Security and Totalisation Agreement on 21 August 2015 in Baltimore.

The India-US CEO Forum met on 21 September 2015 prior to Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD). This was first time when the CEOs Forum was linked to the Commercial track of the dialogue. The CEO Forum presented their recommendations to facilitate greater bilateral trade and investment to both the Governments at the S&CD. The recommendations were reviewed at the S & CD.

India-US Aviation Summit was on 3-5 November 2015 at Bengaluru. The summit was co-hosted by the US Trade and Development Agency and Ministry of Civil Aviation with the support of the US-India Aviation Cooperation Programme (ACP).

The US Congress passed legislation on 19 December 2015 approving long-pending quota reform of IMF that would give more voting rights to India.

US Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Treasury Nathan Sheets visited New Delhi from 6-8 January 2016 for the sub-Cabinet level meeting of bilateral Economic and Financial Partnership. The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs Shaktikanta Das.

Energy

The last round of Ministerial India-US Energy Dialogue was held on 21 September 2015 in Washington DC. Six Working Groups meetings were held: a) Coal, b) New Technology and Renewable Energy, c) Petroleum and Natural Gas, d) Power and Energy Efficiency, e) Sustainable Development and f) Partnership to Advance Clean Energy-Research (PACE-R). It was agreed to explore addition of smart grids and energy storage for grid application as the fourth stream under Partnership to Advance Clean Energy-Research (PACE-R.)

During the Energy Dialogue held in March 2014, the two governments had finalized a Plan of Activities for Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE), announcing their intent to jointly provide US\$ 8 million to a new "PACEsetter Fund" to support the development of innovative off-grid clean energy solutions. The MoU to establish PACEsetter Fund was signed in June 2015.

Senior Advisor to the US President Brian Deese visited India from 6-7 September 2015 to discuss climate change related issues.

Science and Technology

India-US bilateral cooperation in the area of science and technology continued to remain robust. On the sidelines of the Strategic & Commercial Dialogue, a Statement of Intent on cooperation in implementing the India-US Climate Fellowship Programme was signed on 22 September 2015. Under this programme, India and the US will provide US\$ 500,000 each to finance the Fellowship over a period of four

years, which will be administered and implemented by the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF).

During the India-US Startup Connect held in San Jose on 27 September 2015, 2 MoU/LoI were signed (i) an MoU between Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms, Bengaluru, and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3) to develop Indo-US Life Science Sister Innovation Hub to enhance science-based entrepreneurship, research, academia and businesses by leveraging each other's ecosystems; and (ii) an LoI between Department of Biotechnology and Prakash Lab, Stanford University for sourcing Foldscope from Prakashlabs to DBT Star Colleges in India.

India participated in the Intel International Science & Engineering Fairs (Intel ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition, held in Pittsburg from 10-16 May 2015.

Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Prof. T. K. Chandrashekar led delegation to the US from 18-23 May 2015. An MoU between SERB and University of Southern California, Stanford University and Carnegie Mellon University for the Overseas Doctoral Fellowship Program was signed during the visit.

Indian and the US scientists conducted a month-long oceanographic research in Bay of Bengal in August-September 2015 on board US Research Vessel *Roger Revelle* and Indian Research Vessel *Sagar Nidhi* to study the influence of the ocean on the monsoon by mapping the uppermost layer of the Bay of Bengal in detail. Under the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP), the second scientific expedition IODP-355 (Arabian Sea) was completed in May 2015 by Ministry of Earth Sciences onboard the drillship JOIDES Resolution operated by the US Joint Oceanographic Institutions, aimed to unravel the pattern of past monsoon and help reconstruct the past climatic history.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

During the visit of Prime Minister to the US in September 2014, both sides agreed to establish a Contact Group to discuss all implementation issues, including administrative issues, liability, technical issues, and licensing to facilitate the establishment of nuclear parks in India. In this connection, 5th meeting of the Contact Group on Civil Nuclear Cooperation was held in Washington DC on 24 November 2015.

7th meeting of the India-US Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group (CNEWG) was held at the Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai on 3-7 August 2015. As part of cooperation between Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a bilateral meeting was held in Mumbai on 27 October 2015.

Space

In 2015, India and the US continued to make strides in their bilateral cooperation in the field of Space. As part of institutional collaboration between the space agencies of the two countries, third meeting of ISRO-NASA Mars Working Group held at NASA Headquarters, Washington DC from 12-14 August 2015. In addition, fifth Meeting of India-US Joint Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation was held at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru on 23-24 September 2015.

In September 2015, India-US Technology Safeguard Agreement was extended for 5 years till 20 July 2019 which facilitates clearances by the US Government for launch of US satellites and third country satellites containing US components from India. The 2nd India-US Space Security Dialogue was held on 24 February 2016 in New Delhi.

Health

With the objective of greater cooperation in the health sector, India and the US signed following three MoUs in New Delhi on 25 June 2015:

1. MoU for cooperation on cancer research prevention, control and management between the National Cancer Research Institute of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Department of Biotechnology, and National Cancer Institute of the National Institute of Health, US
2. MoU on collaboration in environmental and occupational health and injury prevention and control between the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the US and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR);
3. A Letter of Intent (LoI) on Antimicrobial Resistance research between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Department of Biotechnology

and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (National Institutes of Health) of US.

First bilateral Health Dialogue was held in Washington DC on 17-18 September 2015. This subsumes the earlier bilateral Health Initiative. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Bhanu Pratap Sharma and the US delegation was led by, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Mary Wakefield. The Health Dialogue took stock of the bilateral health cooperation, ranging from Cancer, Tobacco Control, Mental health, Maternal and Child Health, Communicable Diseases, Traditional Medicine, Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) etc., and set some new goals to improve public health.

Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Nilanjan Sanyal visited the US from 13-17 April 2015 and held discussions regarding cooperation in traditional medicine. with senior leadership of the US Department of Health & Human Services, National Center for Complimentary and Integrative Medicine (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI-NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and United States Pharmacopeia Convention.

In October 2015, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) (on behalf of all Research Councils of Ministry of AYUSH) concluded an MoU with the University of Mississippi, US (on behalf of National Center for Natural Products Research) for cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine.

Education

Ministry of Human Resource Development launched a Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) on 30 November 2015 under which short-term teaching and research programmes would be undertaken by visiting academics from other countries in Indian universities. The US is one of the partner countries.

The first meeting of the India-US JWG for providing technical support to Indian Institutes of Technology, beginning with IIT Gandhinagar was held on 5 January 2016 in Gandhinagar. The technical support would be provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) signed MoUs with three US Community Colleges viz.

Houston Community College, Alamo Community College and Lone Star Community College in April 2015 to build partnerships in the field of skill development in India.

Cultural outreach and Diaspora engagement

On 21 June 2015, the First International Day of Yoga was celebrated in the United States across many cities. External Affairs Minister visited New York for celebration of the 1st International Yoga Day. Many leaders from the United States issued proclamations and felicitation messages to commemorate the First International Day of Yoga and spread awareness about Yoga.

The Mission and the consulates organized a series of yoga events as curtain-raisers for the First International Day of Yoga, including a Talk by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on “Nurturing Peace through Yoga and Meditation” on 29 April 2015 and a Talk by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev on ‘Relevance of Yoga in Modern Life’ on 11 May 2015.

The ninth Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was held on 14-15 November 2015 in Los Angeles California. It was attended by Minister of State for External Affairs General Dr. V.K. Singh (Retd.).

Consular cooperation

US Government had offered membership in Global Entry Program (GEP) to facilitate expedited entry of trusted travellers from India to the United States. The last round of discussions took place in September 2015.

The fourth round of India-US Consular Dialogue was held in Washington DC on 3 November 2015.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries

Argentina

Argentina’s Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduardo Zuain and Mining Minister, Jorge Mayoral visited India in 2015. They expressed Argentina’s interest in strengthening cooperation in trade, commerce, education, culture and science and technology with India. As part of India’s effort to increase linkages between Indian states and with their counterparts in other countries, many delegations from Argentine provinces visited India as part of Regional Action Plan to establish linkages with academic, science and

technology and commercial institutions in Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Two important developments in India and Argentina’s bilateral commercial relations strengthened bilateral trade relations: Presidential Amendment of Annexe II to include India in the list of countries for pharma imports in Argentina and India’s issuance of phytosanitary clearance on exports of Argentine apples, pears and quinces. Argentina also participated in the 6th India-LAC Conclave in October 2015. Three Export Promotion Councils, Pharmexcil, Chemexcil and Council of Leather Exports organised B2B exhibitions in Buenos Aires to promote chemical and pharma exports from India. In addition business seminars were organised to promote Make in India campaign and Brand India in several parts of Argentina, in collaboration with apex business chambers.

On the cultural front Festivals/Days of India were organised in several provinces such as Corrientes, Buenos Aires, Jujuy and Mendoza. First International Yoga Day was organised in all the 23 provinces of Argentina and in the capital city of Buenos Aires in collaboration with the city/provincial governments.

Bolivia

Bilateral trade between the two countries substantially increased due to the visit of trade delegations. India’s exports were US\$ 70.838 million in FY 2014-15 while imports amounted to US\$ 3.56 million in the same year. Bolivia was included in the list of countries eligible for eTV with effect from 15 August 2015.

International Day of Yoga 2015 was celebrated in La Paz and some other cities. Bolivia was the partner country in International Kolkata Book Fair held in January 2016.

Brazil

The 7th Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi on 19 November 2015 and co-chaired by the Hon’ble External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and the Minister of External Relations of Brazil Mr. Mauro Vieira. They reviewed bilateral ties and exchanged views on regional and multilateral cooperation. The Ministers agreed that there should be Foreign Office Consultations on a regular basis and the FOC mechanism was formally instituted at this JCM.



EAM with Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil



PM with Donald Ramotar, President of Guyana

The bilateral trade was approx. US\$ 7.9 bn in 2015 which decreased by nearly 30% with major decline in value of crude and refined petroleum products. The balance of trade was in favour of India in 2015.

Special Secretary (AMS & CPV) Shri R. Swaminathan visited Brazil and held bilateral talks with his Brazilian counterpart Mr. Jose Alfredo Graca Lima, Under Secretary General, on 20 July 2015 at Brasilia and discussed the gamut of cooperation including trade and commerce, agriculture, environment, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, space, defence, traditional medicine, etc. and regional and multilateral issues.

The first meeting of the Consular Mechanism in implementation of the Agreement signed in 2014 during PM's visit, was also held on 21 July 2015. The Instruments of Ratification of the Extradition Treaty were exchanged between the two countries.

India participated in 27 skill categories at the World Skills Sao Paulo 2015 competition in August 2015. Two State level delegations led by Shri Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister & Minister of Education of Delhi and Government Shri Shibu Baby John, Minister for Labour & Skills of Kerala also participated in this event. Other important visits included the visit of Justice Smt. Deepa Sharma, Delhi High Court in October 2015 to attend the Latin American and Caribbean Region Conference in São Paulo. Visit of Air Chief Marshal, Shri Arup Raha to Brazilian aerospace conglomerate Embraer took place on 26 October 2015. A delegation from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change participated in the meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group of Experts on Financing under the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Sao Paulo from 26 - 29 October 2015. Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari visited Brasilia from 17 - 19 November 2015 to attend the Second Global High level Conference on Road Safety. The event was inaugurated by the Brazilian President.

On 21 June 2015, the First International Day of Yoga was celebrated in 12 major cities of Brazil. A Commemorative postal stamp was released by the postal department of Brazil.

Chile

During April-October 2015, the bilateral trade between India and Chile reached US\$ 1636.46 million with Indian exports at US\$ 404.44 million and imports from Chile at US\$ 1232.02 million.

A four-member official delegation headed by H.E. Mr. Eduardo Frei, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador on Special Mission to the Asia-Pacific region and former President of Chile, visited India from 20-30 November 2015, to enhance the bilateral ties to carry forward the discussions on the expansion of the PTA between the two countries which are already at an advanced stage. During the visit, H.E. Frei held bilateral meetings with the Ministers of State for External Affairs, Commerce and Industry, Textiles and Information & Broadcasting.

The first International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated on 21 June 2015, at the prestigious Centro Cultural La Moneda in Santiago (cultural centre of the Presidential Palace of Chile).

Colombia

The fall in crude oil prices affected trade between the two countries. Colombia's exports to India accounted for US\$ 415,38 mn, a fall of 82.41% and Indian exports to Colombia were US\$ 909,72 mn, a fall of 7.15% in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14 during the same period. The balance of trade in 2014-15 was in favour of India.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, accompanied by a business delegation visited Colombia from 20-22 May 2015, and met Colombian Minister of Mines & Energy, Mr. Tomas Gonzalez Estrada.

There have been business related visits by TEXPROCIL, Capexil, SRTEPC, ACMA & tour operators which further strengthened business ties with Colombia. The international Yoga Day was organized in Colombia in Bogota, Medellin, Barranquilla, Cali and Pasto.

Ecuador

The protocol for the establishment of India-Ecuador Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) was signed in New Delhi. The first meeting of JETCO is proposed to be held in early 2016 in India.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen.(Retd.) V.K. Singh visited Ecuador on 25-27 May 2015 for bilateral consultations. He had meetings with Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Leonardo Arizaga. Issues of bilateral, multilateral and regional interest were discussed during the meeting.

Guyana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the newly elected President David Granger of Guyana on 24 September 2015 on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York. Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) paid an official visit to Guyana in July 2015. During this visit, the first ever India-CARICOM Joint Commission Meeting took place in Guyana on 02 June 2015. India's developmental assistance to Guyana continued with the announcement of concessional credit of US\$60 million for infrastructure projects like the East Bank Demerara-East Coast Demerara bypass road and passenger ferry in addition to announcement for setting up of an IT Centre of Excellence in Guyana. The International Day of Yoga was observed on 21 June 2015 in Georgetown, Guyana with Prime minister of Guyana, Moses Nagamootoo as its Chief Guest.

Mexico

India's relationship with Mexico received a boost from the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Mexican President Mr. Enrique Pena Nieto on the sidelines of the 70th UNGA in New York. During the meeting, they discussed ways and means of strengthening the bilateral relationship. Both leaders discussed India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, MTCR and India's permanent membership in a reformed and expanded Security Council.

Growth in bilateral trade has been impressive in recent years. In Mexico's total global exports, India ranks 8th whereas India is Mexico's 14th largest partner in global market. The total bilateral trade in 2014-2015 was approx. US\$ 6.25 billion. Mexican investments in India too are on the rise.

Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan with a business delegation visited Mexico on 18 - 19 May 2015 and met Minister of Commerce & Economy of Mexico and Energy Minister of Mexico. India and Mexico agreed to strengthen the energy partnership. CEOs of ONGC, Oil India, CAIRN, RELIANCE, ADANI, L&T & FICCI were part of the business delegation.

Mexican Vice Minister of Economy, Mr. Francisco de Rosenzweig visited India to participate in CII India-LAC Investor Conclave which was held on 8-9 October 2015. The First International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21

June 2015 in Mexico in collaboration with the Municipal Government of the Federal District of Mexico City

Suriname

During the 5th JCM India announced US\$ 50 million as line of credit to Suriname and six proposals are under active consideration of the Ministry.

Three Chetak helicopters produced by HAL worth US\$ 13.5 million were handed over to Ministry of Defence in March, 2015. The experts/technicians of HAL visited Suriname twice in 2015 for maintenance and training purposes.

Under Grant in Aid for LAC, the Ministry of External Affairs sanctioned a grant Of US\$ 3,11,567.21 for upgrading of the S'Lands Hospital morgue in Paramaribo and amount of US\$ 1,69,400/- as an assistance to the Institute for Natural Resources and Engineering Studies (NATIN) of Suriname.

Suriname Chamber of Commerce participated in 6th CII India- LAC Conclave in October 2015.

Grants worth US\$29500/- for promotion of Hindi in Suriname was provided by India in the year 2015 as approximately 80 voluntary Hindi schools are functioning in different district of Suriname. Two Surinamese students are currently learning Hindi in the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan in Agra and two students are studying BAMS course in India under AYUSH scholarship.

Paraguay

Relations between India and Paraguay are cordial and friendly. In April 2015, Special Secretary(AMS&CPV), Shri R.Swaminathan visited Paraguay, where he called upon the Foreign Minister, Presidential Chief of Protocol, Agriculture and Industry Ministers of Paraguay to discuss a wide array of bilateral issues of co-operation, with special focus on promoting bilateral agro trade. In August 2015 Vice Foreign Minister of Paraguay, Mr. Oscar Cabello visited India for the Second round of Foreign Office Consultations. Discussions on various issues including trade and investment, agriculture, tourism, technical cooperation, MERCOSUR and UNSC reforms were held. The first International Yoga Day was celebrated in Asuncion in collaboration with the Sports Ministry of Paraguay.

Peru

India participated in 10th Pacific Alliance Summit with an Observer status on 1-3 July 2015 at Paracas, Peru. Finance Minister, Mr. Arun Jaitley, visited Lima from 6-11 October 2015 and participated in the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings and Meetings of G24 and the Commonwealth Finance Ministers. A delegation from Ministry of Tribal Affairs visited Lima from 8-12 June 2015 and held meetings with Peruvian Ministries of Culture, Education and Development & Social Inclusion.

India's exports to Peru were US\$ 819.858 million in FY 2014-15 while imports amounted to US\$ 590.395 million.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister of Uruguay, Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa visited India on 8-9 October 2015 for bilateral talks and to participate in the India-LAC Conclave along with a commercial delegation. Mr Novoa called on EAM and held discussion with Commerce Minister to promote bilateral trade, tourism and economic co-operation. The first International Yoga Day was celebrated in Uruguay in collaboration with the Tata Motors.

Venezuela

Venezuela has emerged as India's 3rd largest supplier of crude oil. India imported oil worth US\$ 12 billion in 2014-15. Bilateral trade touched US\$ 12.3 billion in 2014-15.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj met Executive Vice President Mr. Jorge Arreaza on 22 April 2015 on the sidelines of Asia Africa Summit 2015 in Jakarta. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh visited Caracas on 24-25 May 2015. He held meetings with Vice President Mr. Jorge Arreaza, Foreign Minister Dr. Delcy Rodriguez, Oil and Mining Minister Mr. Asdrubal Chavez, and President of PDVSA Mr. Eulogio Del Pino.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan met Oil and Mining Minister Mr. Asdrubal Chavez on 4 June 2015 in Vienna to discuss bilateral cooperation. PDVSA President Mr. Eulogio Del Pino visited India on 15-16 June 2015. He met Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh to discuss

bilateral cooperation in hydrocarbon sector. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj had a brief pull aside with Foreign Minister Dr. Delcy Rodriguez in New York on 30 September 2015 on the sidelines of UNGA session.

The Simon Bolivar University organised a "Make in India" Day on 4 June 2015 in association with Indian Embassy and ITEC alumni. The first International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated on 21 June 2015 and was attended by nearly 1000 participants.

Central America

Belize

MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh(Retd.) had a successful meeting with Belizian Foreign Minister Wilfred Erlington in Guatemala City on 28May 2015 where he attended the India-SICA Ministerial Meeting.

Costa Rica

The Second FOC was held on 16 March 2015 in New Delhi. Special Secretary (AMS & CPV) Shri R. Swaminathan, led the Indian delegation and Mr. Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Vice Minister of Foreign Relations led the Costa Rican delegation. An MoU between Foreign Service Institutes of India and Costa Rica was signed during the visit.

MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh(Retd.) paid an official visit to San Jose, Costa Rica from 21-22 July 2015. During his visit he had bilateral meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the First Vice President and the Minister of Foreign Trade. The two sides discussed the entire gamut of India-Costa Rica bilateral relations. They also discussed regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest, issues pertaining to India-SICA (Central American Integration System) dialogue and the follow up of the last ministerial. An Agreement on Technical Cooperation was signed during the visit.

The Foreign Trade Minister and 2nd Vice President of Costa Rica visited India for participation in the 6th India LAC Conclave organized by CII during 8-9 October 2015 in New Delhi.

The Mission in coordination with the Costa Rica Indian Association (CRIA) organized International Day of Yoga (IDY) at Museum of Art in which the school children enthusiastically participated.



MoS Gen. V. K. Singh (Retd.) with Mrs. María Quijada, Foreign Minister Dely Rodríguez and Oil & Mines Minister Asdrubal Chávez of Venezuela



MoS General V. K. Singh (Retd.) being greeted during Installation of Solar Traffic Lights in Guatemala City

El Salvador

The Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh(Retd.) visited El Salvador from 22 - 24 July 2015 to participate in the VIII Ministerial Conference of Community of Democracies (CoD) in San Salvador, El Salvador. On the sidelines of the conference, MoS had bilateral meetings with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez and Vice President Oscar Ortiz.

Guatemala

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh(Retd.), visited Guatemala from 27-30 May 2015, for the India-SICA Ministerial Meeting and bilateral talks with the Foreign Minister of Guatemala. During the meeting, India offered a Line of Credit of US\$ 240 million to SICA countries (US\$ 30 million to each SICA country) for projects in these countries, enhanced the existing 100 ITEC slots to 200 and 10 ITEC scholarships exclusively to the SICA Secretariat. India proposed setting up a Regional Barefoot Vocational Training Centre in Guatemala to train indigenous women from the SICA region who can further electrify their villages with solar energy. An Agreement for exemption from visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official passports was signed with Guatemala during the visit.

The project of installation of solar-powered traffic signaling system gifted by Government of India under the Bilateral Aid Programme was completed and made operational in the presence of MOS on 29 May 2015.

The Vice Foreign Minister of Guatemala participated in the India-LAC Conclave organized by CII in October 2015.

Honduras

The bilateral relations between India and Honduras were strengthened with the holding of first Foreign Office Consultations. Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS & CPV), Ministry of External Affairs of India led the Indian delegation for the first round of Foreign Office Consultations between Honduras and India held on 27 April 2015 in Tegucigalpa. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, Ambassador Roberto Ochoa Madrid, led the Honduran delegation. They discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations which included cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields and important regional and multilateral issues. Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) also

called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras H.E. Ambassador Arturo Corrales Alvares.

Nicaragua

Bilateral Trade registered at US\$92 million marginal increase during this period. India's export registered at 0.83 mn and import 91mn. India committed to support Nicaragua in the area of pharmaceuticals, automotive, IT, agriculture, energy and human resource development. A line of credit of US\$ 31.29 Million has been approved in 2015 for transmission lines and sub-station project.

Mr. Orlando Salvador Solorzano Delgado, Minister for Development, Industry and Trade led a delegation to participate in the 6th CII India-LAC Conclave held in New Delhi, 8-9 October 2015.

The Indian Mission in Nicaragua coordinated with a few Indian families living in Nicaragua to organize International Day of Yoga (IDY) at Ruben Dario National Theatre.

Panama

120 Indian companies participated in Expocomer-2015, one of the largest annual commercial expositions in Central America, organized by the Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture from 11-14 March 2015 in Panama City. More than 35 foreign countries participated in the exposition.

Panama Diamond Exchange (PDE) brought together senior representatives of the diamond industry, precious stones and jewellery in the world. Over 350 buyers from 17 countries in the region and exporters from India, Belgium and Israel participated in the business meetings. Four Indian companies have started their offices in PDE. The opening ceremony of the event was attended by the President of Panama.

The Indian Mission in Panama organized International Day of Yoga (IDY) with active participation of local Yoga Institutes and support by the Offices of the First Lady, the Mayor of Panama and National Institute of Culture.

Caribbean Countries

Antigua and Barbuda

Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary(AMS&CPV) paid an official visit to Antigua & Barbuda from 24-25 July 2015 and

met Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Gaston Browne and Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade and Minister of Health. Indian development assistance to Antigua and Barbuda continued with training of its nationals in India under the ITEC program. The International Day of Yoga was observed on 21 June 2015 in St. John's Antigua with Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, Charles Max Fernandes as the Chief Guest.

Barbados

The first ever Foreign Office Consultations between India and Barbados was held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 28 April - 1 May 2015. The 3 member Indian delegation was led by Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) and Ms. Simone Rudder, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Government of Barbados led the Barbadian delegation.

India and Barbados have signed Air Services Agreement on 6 October 2015 which will facilitate easier travel between the two countries.

Commonwealth of Dominica

An ICT Centre has been set up in November 2015 under our bilateral cooperation programme. A sum of US\$ 200,000/- was provided to the Government of Dominica as humanitarian assistance in the wake of tropical storm Erika.

International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Grenada and the Commonwealth of Dominica in collaboration with the concerned Governments with considerable enthusiasm.

Cuba

The First Vice President of Cuba Miguel Diaz-Canel paid an official visit to India from 23-25 March 2015. This was the first high level visit from Cuba after the visit of the then President Fidel Castro to India in October 1983 for the NAM Summit. During the visit, the Cuban Vice President held discussions with President, Vice President, and the Prime Minister. EAM also called on the visiting Cuban dignitary.

The Vice Minister of Energy and Mines of Cuba, Yuri Viamonte Lazo participated in the 6th CII India-LAC Conclave held at New Delhi on 8-9 October 2015. The First International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 2015 which was attended by approx. 600 people.

A delegation from the Ministry of AYUSH visited Havana from 21-25 July 2015 and held extensive discussions with the Cuban Department of Natural and Traditional Medicine and Ministry of Health besides various Cuban institutions. The purpose of the visit was to explore possibilities of undertaking joint research in the field of homeopathy and to sign a MOU on establishing a chair in one of the Cuban universities on Ayurveda or Homeopathy. Indian Delegation also offered scholarships in the field of homeopathy studies in India.

Dominican Republic (DR)

MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh(Retd.), visited DR in February, 2015. He met Foreign Minister, Navarro, delivered an address on India's policy towards LAC region and also interacted with business leaders. An Agreement for Cooperation in Renewable Energy was signed.

Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr. Nasim Zaidi participated in the 2nd A-WEB General Assembly and International Conference, which gathered panelists from about 100 electoral bodies from around the world, held from 18-21 August 2015 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Haiti

Health Minister of Haiti Dr. Marie L. Florence Duperwal visited India at the invitation of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to participate in the Third Global Call to Action Summit at Delhi on 25-29 August 2015.

Jamaica

International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Kingston on 21 June 2015 in the prestigious National Indoor Sports Centre. Minister for Sports of Jamaica, Ms. Neita Headley addressed the gathering.

A delegation comprising three members from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, visited Jamaica to attend 21st Session of the International Seabed Authority in connection with the review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Indian development assistance to St. Kitts and Nevis continued with training of its nationals in India under the

ITEC program. The International Day of Yoga was observed on 21 June 2015 in Basseterre, the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Trinidad & Tobago

A 3-member delegation led by Shri R.Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS & CPV) paid a 3-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago from 3-6 June 2015. During the visit the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed with Foreign Minister Winston Dookeran and the Minister of Trade, Investments, and Communications Vasanth Bharat. An MoU on Bilateral cooperation was signed between the Foreign Services Institute of India and the Institute of International Relations of the University of the West Indies (UWI).

The International Conference on Indian Diaspora was organized in collaboration with the UWI from 12-16 May 2015. Over 50 scholars from several countries including Guyana, Suriname, Fiji, U.S., UK, Australia, Malaysia and Barbados attended the Conference.

The first International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated over a period of one week starting 14 June 2015 till 21 June 2015 throughout the country, which was attended by over 500 participants and addressed by Speaker of the House. Hon'ble Wade Mark, Minister of Legal Affairs and Attorney General were also present amongst the distinguished audience.

St Lucia

Prime Minister met the St Lucian Prime Minister Dr Kenny

D. Anthony on the sidelines of UNGA on 25 September 2015 and discussed bilateral, multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

The Government of St. Lucia has expressed interest in signing a bilateral agreement with India in the fields of Information Technology, Education, Culture, Sports and Technical Cooperation.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Dr Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines met Prime Minister Modi on 24 September 2015, in New York on the sidelines of UNGA meeting. The two leaders held talks on developing bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed satisfaction at the traditional close and cordial links that exist between India and SVG.

The Bahamas

In June 2015 Indian HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani led her delegation to the Bahamas to participate in the 19th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers in Nassau. International Yoga Day was organised by State Bank of India, Nassau, Bahamas in partnership with Shivananda Ashram and prominent Indian community members in The Bahamas on 21 June 2015.

The Bahamas appointed their Non-resident High Commissioner, Mr. Jason Lowel Mortimer, who presented his credentials to our President on 30 April 2015.



United Nations and International Organisations

&

Legal and Treaties Division

9

India in United Nations 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

The 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) commenced in September 2015 in New York. Hon'ble Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation at the High-Level segment of the 70th Session of the UNGA in New York on the 24, 25 & 28 September 2015. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj (EAM) visited New York from 29 September - 1 October 2015, for the General Debate of the 70th Session of the UNGA.

PM addressed the UN Summit for the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015. In addition, PM also hosted the G-4 Summit (26 September 2015) and participated in the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping (28 September 2015). On the sidelines, PM held bilateral meetings, amongst others, with the King of Jordan, Presidents of the US, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Guyana, Mexico, Palestine, Sri Lanka and the Prime Ministers of Sweden, Bangladesh, Bhutan, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines and the UK. PM also met the UN Secretary General (UNSG) on 25 September 2015 on the sidelines of the Sustainable Development Summit. He presented to the



Prime Minister addresses at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York (25 September 2015)

UNSG a special publication on “*India and the UN: 70 years*”, which chronicled important moments in India’s engagement with the United Nations since 1945.

EAM, in her statement at the General Debate of the UNGA on 1 October 2015, highlighted India’s perspective on issues of global importance and concern, including terrorism. EAM, in highlighting the relevance of the UN at its 70th anniversary, underscored the urgent need for reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and appealed to the international community to adopt, at the earliest, the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

On the margins of the 70th Session of the UNGA, EAM held a large number of multilateral and bilateral dialogues, including chairing the BRICS Ministerial meeting and India-CARICOM Ministerial Meeting and participating in the India-CELAC, India-GCC Ministerial Meetings and the SAARC Foreign Ministers’ lunch. In addition, EAM held bilateral meetings with her counterparts from the United Kingdom, Maldives, Syria, Sri Lanka and Nepal among others. The discussions during these dialogues/meetings covered the entire gamut of India’s bilateral and multilateral relations and issues of regional and global importance including UNSC reform, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Climate Change, economic partnerships, trade and investment and regional integration. The Commonwealth Secretary General also called on EAM at New York on 29 September 2015.

A group of eleven Hon’ble Members of Parliament (MPs) visited New York as part of India’s Non-Official Delegation to the 70th Session of the UNGA in two batches for the period 19-25 October 2015 and 2-8 November 2015 respectively. The first batch included Shri Kamlesh Paswan, BJP (LS); Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, BJP (RS); Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, BJD (LS); Shri S.P. Muddahanumegowda, INC (LS); Shri Abhishek Banerjee, AITC (LS) and Smt. Vijila Sathyananth, AIADMK (RS). The second batch included Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, SP (RS); Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, BJP (LS); Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule, NCP (LS); Shri Rahul Kaswan, BJP (LS) and Smt Riti Pathak, BJP (LS). During the visit, the Parliamentarians participated in several UN Meetings/Conferences and made national statements in the General Assembly debates and the six UNGA Committees on various issues including Security Council working methods and

reforms, economic and social matters, international law, disarmament and space, sustainable development, human rights and World Summit on Information Society. The Parliamentarians also met the President of the General Assembly, Under Secretary General for Field Support, and Indian American Association in New York.

Reform of the UN Security Council

The G-4 Summit held on 26 September 2015 at New York was the first such meeting in which all G-4 Countries were represented at the highest level. PM in his remarks during the Summit said, “As I had reflected in my letter on the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we live in a fundamentally different world from the time the UN was born. The number of Member States has grown four-fold. Threats to peace and security have become more complex, unpredictable and undefined. In many ways, our lives are becoming globalized, but fault-lines around our identities are growing. We live in a digital age. The global economy is changed, with new engines of growth, more widely dispersed economic power and widening wealth gap. Yet, our institutions, approaches, and often mind-sets, reflect the wisdom of the century we have left behind, not the century we live in. This is especially true of the United Nations Security Council. The reform of the Security Council within a fixed time frame has become an urgent and important task. The Security Council must include the world’s largest democracies, major locomotives of the global economy, and voices from all the major continents. It will carry greater credibility and legitimacy and will be more representative and effective in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.”

PM concluded by adding that, “After decades, we finally see some movement. The 69th Session of the General Assembly has taken a significant step forward to commence text-based negotiations. This would not have been possible but for the dynamic leadership of H.E. Mr. Sam Kutesa and Ambassador Courtney Rattray. However, this is just the first step. We should aim to take this process to its logical conclusion during the 70th session. I am confident that our meeting today will give a big impetus to our efforts in this direction.”

In the joint press statement issued at the end of the Summit, the G-4 leaders expressed determination to redouble their efforts towards securing concrete outcomes during the 70th Session of the UNGA. They welcomed the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Decision 69/560 to

use the text presented by the President of the 69th General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015 as the basis for negotiations within the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN). The leaders emphasized that the G-4 countries are legitimate candidates for permanent membership in an expanded and reformed Council and supported each other's candidature.

EAM, at the General Debate of the 70th Session of the UNGA on 1 October 2015 said, "If we are to preserve the centrality and legitimacy of the UN as the custodian of global peace, security and development, the reform of the Security Council is its most urgent and pressing need. This is the need of the hour. How can we have a Security Council in 2015 which still reflects the geo-political architecture of 1945? How can we have a Security Council which still does not give place as a permanent member to Africa and Latin America? We have to include more developing nations in the decision making structures of the Security Council. And we need to change the way it does business by doing away with outdated and non-transparent working methods. Imparting more legitimacy and balance to the Council would restore its credibility and equip it to confront the challenges of our times. We are happy that during the last one year under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Sam Kutesa and H.E. Mr. Courtney Rattray we have achieved what we could not do so over two decades of discussions - a text to negotiate, unanimously adopted by consensus in the General Assembly under Decision 69/560. This first, but critical step, must be the springboard for action in this historic 70th Session of the UNGA."

Prior to the commencement of the 70th Session of the UNGA, Director Generals from the G-4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) had met in Brasilia on 10 July 2015 to exchange views/strategy on the issue of the UNSC Reform and discuss the state of play on the ongoing IGN at the UN.

Counter-Piracy

India participated in the 18th Plenary Meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) held on 8 July 2015 in New York. From India's perspective, one of the important issues deliberated was the Piracy High Risk Area (HRA) and regulation of Private Maritime Security Companies and Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel on board ships. In the Communique issued at the end of the CGPCS meeting, the global shipping and oil

industry agreed to undertake a substantive review of the HRA, including the coordinates, within three months and report the findings to the Chair of the CGPCS. Subsequently, and as an outcome of the review, it was announced by the global shipping and oil industry, on 8 October 2015, that from 1 December 2015, the eastern boundary of the Piracy High Risk Area would be revised from 78°E (the western coastline of India) to 65°E Longitude.

Peacekeeping

India continued its active engagement on peacekeeping issues at the UN including with plenary statements and debates within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (Fourth Committee of the 70th UNGA).

PM participated in the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping on 28 September 2015 in New York. At this Summit, PM announced India's enhanced contributions to UN Peacekeeping covering all aspects of peacekeeping personnel, enablers and training. He also made a strong call for Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to be given greater role in the decision making process. Further, India committed an additional battalion of up to 850 troops in existing or new operations, 'three' additional police units with higher representation of female peacekeepers, commitment to provide critical enablers, deployment of technical personnel in UN Mission and initiation of a new training programme for peacekeepers from Africa in India.

India has maintained the view that it is important that the troop and police contributing countries are fully involved in mandate development and in all aspects of mission planning including the decision-making process in today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations. In this regard, India has welcomed the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO), constituted by the UN Secretary General in October 2014 and led by Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, former President of Timor-Leste. The members of the panel included Lt. General Abhijit Guha (Retd.) from India. The panel had visited India during 5-7 February 2015 and met with EAM and the Defence Secretary. India will be working closely with relevant offices at the United Nations towards seeking a positive consideration and eventual implementation of the HIPPO report.

India occupies the pole position (*in cumulative terms*) amongst the countries contributing troops for UN peacekeeping

operations with cumulative contributions of more than 180,000 troops in 48 missions out of the 69 UN peacekeeping operations mandated so far. As of 31 October 2015, India is the third largest troop contributor with 7796 personnel deployed in ten UN Peacekeeping Missions, including the first-ever Female Formed Police Unit at the UN Mission in Liberia. The Democratic Republic of Congo (3662), South Sudan (2,318), Lebanon (897), Haiti (460), Liberia (253), and Golan Heights on Syria-Israel Border (190) are leading UN Peacekeeping missions with substantial Indian Presence. The high standards of performance by the Indian troops and police personnel under the challenging circumstances have won them high regard world-wide.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

The Permanent Mission of India to UN hosted a sombre function on 29 May 2015 to commemorate the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers for all the recipients of the 125 Dag Hammarskjold Medals awarded this year by the United Nations. EAM's message on the UN's commemoration of International Day of Peacekeepers was read out during the event. During the commemorative function a unique initiative was undertaken by the Indian Mission to UN, whereby a Virtual Memorial Wall was launched and dedicated to those 161 Indian peacekeepers who made the supreme sacrifice in the UN Peacekeeping Missions so far. This initiative is a precursor to the eventual construction of a UN Peacekeepers Memorial Wall on the premises of the United Nations in New York as has been proposed by India.

Terrorism

India continued to work closely with the UNSC's Sanctions Committee including the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and also with the Al-Qaida and Taliban Monitoring Team in order to ensure that there is strict compliance by member states of the sanctions regime. In addition, India also worked closely with UN Counter Terrorism bodies like the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and has been regularly attending their workshops. CTED held The Tenth Regional Workshop for Judges, Prosecutors and Police Officers in Bangkok from 19-21 October 2015. A special meeting of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee was held on 28 July 2015 on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in Madrid, Spain. India participated in both.

India strongly supported all efforts, especially within the purview of the United Nations that strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. In this context, India continued to stress the need for expanding the scope of legal instruments and of enforcement efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and support networks and to bring the terrorists to justice. India is working steadfastly at the Sixth Committee of the UN towards early conclusion of the CCIT, if possible, during the 70th Session of the UNGA.

First International Day of Yoga

EAM visited New York from 20-22 June 2015, to preside over the celebration of the First International Day of Yoga at the United Nations on 21 June 2015 (a Sunday) at the UN. The event featured a special lecture coupled with a demonstration by the Founder of Art of Living Foundation, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. The United Nations had proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by adoption of the resolution A/Res/69/131 in December 2014 following from an Indian initiative that was supported by a record number of 177 member States of the United Nations. During her visit, EAM also held bilateral meetings with the President of the 69th UNGA and the UN Secretary General. During the visit, EAM also released a book chronicling the role of Indian Peacekeepers in current UN Peacekeeping Missions.

9th International Day of Non-Violence

The United Nations observed the 9th International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October 2015 at a Special Event organized by the Permanent Mission of India at Trusteeship Council of the UN Headquarters in New York. Foreign Secretary Dr. S Jaishankar presided over the event, which was attended by the President of the 69th UNGA, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft and the UN Secretary General in addition to the visiting Finance Minister from Bangladesh. During the event, Foreign Secretary presented a life size portrait of Mahatma Gandhi spinning the charkha, to the Secretary-General.

The Commonwealth

India is the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth budget and the fifth largest contributor to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. EAM led India's delegation to the *Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)* held at Malta on 27-29 November 2015.



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon addressing the gathering at the celebration of International Day of Yoga at United Nations in New York



Celebration of International Day of Yoga at Times Square in New York

Prior to that, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd) (MoS (VKS)) participated in the *Pre-CHOGM Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting* and the *Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) Meeting*, held at Malta on 25 & 26 November 2015. During CHOGM 2015, EAM announced India's contribution of US\$ 2.5mn to the Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility. The CHOGM 2015 adopted a Communique, as well as a Statement on Climate Action and a Statement at the end of the Retreat Session.

At the CHOGM 2015, India was again nominated as a member of the reconfigured Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) for the term 2015-17.

Non – Aligned Movement (NAM)

As one of the founder members of NAM, India has been supportive of the Non-Aligned Movement where it provides a valuable forum for developing countries to articulate their views on a range of political and economic issues in a collective manner. In the post-Cold War era, NAM has undoubtedly undergone considerable change. Nevertheless, the Movement continues to enjoy importance, particularly on issues where commonalities of views are possible among member countries. The last mid-term NAM Ministerial Conference was held in Algiers, Algeria from 26-29 May 2014, and followed the last (16th) NAM Summit in Tehran, Iran. The next NAM Summit is scheduled to be held in Venezuela in July 2016.

Democracy Initiatives

(i) Community of Democracies: Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition of States to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world. India has been an active member of the CoD and is also a member of its Governing Council. Meetings of the Governing Council are held on a quarterly basis. MoS (VKS) attended the 8th Ministerial Conference of the CoD in San Salvador from 22-24 July 2015. MoS spoke at the Plenary Session and also participated in an interactive dialogue session between governments and civil society organizations on the topic 'E-democracy, e-government and TICs for democracy' under the session theme 'Innovative Tools to Strengthen Democracy'.

The theme of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the CoD was 'Democracy and Development'. India also became a member of the CoD Working Group on Governance and Effectiveness during 17th Governing Council Meeting held on the sidelines of the Ministerial Conference. MoS (VKS) held bilateral discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia, Foreign Minister of Mongolia, Deputy Foreign Ministers of Lithuania and Japan and Secretary General of the CoD. MoS (VKS) also called on the Vice President of El Salvador and met Foreign Minister of El Salvador.

(ii) Bali Democracy Forum (BDF):The 8th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF VIII) was held on 10 & 11 December 2015 in Bali, Indonesia on the theme "Democracy and Effective Public Governance". India was represented at the Forum by the Ambassador of India to Indonesia. India highlighted that inclusive, representative and responsive democratic spirit is its cultural heritage and that gender equality and the empowerment of women is a priority area.

(iii) UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF):UNDEF was initiated as a result of a partnership between India and the United States and was launched in New York on 14 September 2005. Presently, India is the second largest contributor to the UNDEF, having contributed an amount of US\$ 200,000 in 2014-15 to take the total contribution to US\$ 31.76mn till November 2015. India considers UNDEF to be an effective instrument for the promotion of democratic values and processes and has played a prominent role in the UNDEF as member of its apex governing body - the Advisory Board. UNDEF presently supports projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Since its inception, UNDEF has funded around 500 projects in more than 110 countries in six main areas viz., community development; rule of law and human rights; tools for democratization; women; youth; and media.

Elections

India has representation in over 30 UN bodies, including Human Rights Council (HRC) and Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC). In 2015, India was re-elected to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) for the term 2016-2019, Executive Board of the UN World Food Programme (UN-WFP) for the term 2016-2018, UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) for the term 2016-

2022, Organization Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the term 2016-2017, International Maritime Organization Council under Category B for the term 2016-2018 and to the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

UN Human Rights Council (HRC)

India's second consecutive three-year term as a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC) started in January 2015. India exercised a balanced and pragmatic approach to the work and proceedings of the three Regular Sessions of the Council held in 2015 as well as the 23rd Special Session on the terrorist group Boko Haram. India participated constructively in shaping some of the resolutions that were adopted by HRC during the year. The HRC, besides its attention to various thematic issues, focused on country-specific situations by adopting country-specific resolutions on Syria, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK), Myanmar, Iran and Sri Lanka (for the fourth time) and Palestine. India also participated constructively in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the HRC by making statements during the review of 20 of the 42 countries that were considered this year. In addition, India served as a member of the Troika for the UPRs of Kuwait, Maldives, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Three eminent Indians continued to serve with distinction as members of important Treaty Bodies and human rights mechanisms, including Amb. Dilip Lahiri (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - CERD), Amb Chandrasekhar Dasgupta (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - CESCR), and Shri Kishore Singh (Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education).

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Hon'ble Speaker of the *Lok Sabha*, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, led the Indian Parliamentary delegation comprising Members of Parliament of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to the 133rd IPU Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in October, 2015 in Geneva. Hon'ble Speaker addressed the IPU General Assembly on the topic "The moral and economic imperative for fairer, smarter and more humane migration". The Indian Parliamentary delegation actively participated in the IPU Assembly's proceedings as well as the other segments, i.e. panel discussions, sessions of IPU Committee on various themes, emergency item and pre- and

post-Assembly sessions. Shri Nagendra Singh, Hon'ble MP, has been formally endorsed as a Bureau Member of the Asia-Pacific Group of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble M.P., is already on the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.

World Health Organization (WHO)

India assumed the Presidency of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the highest decision making body of the World Health Organization, after a gap of 19 years. Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda (HFM), who led the Indian delegation to 68th WHA held in Geneva from 18 - 26 May 2015, was unanimously elected as the President of the Assembly. As a reflection of India's commitment to WHO, as the lead global health agency, HFM announced additional voluntary contributions to the tune of USD 2.1 million to various WHO Programmes and Funds.

India actively contributed to some of the major outcomes of the 68th WHA including the first Global Action Plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance, the first WHA resolution on Air Pollution and Health as well as the resolutions on Poliomyelitis, Global Vaccine Action Plan and Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health Innovation & Intellectual Property.

India continued to take an active role in the WHO Member State Mechanism on Substandard, Spurious, Falsely-labeled, Falsified and Counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products, the fourth meeting of which took place in November 2015, as well as in the open-ended meetings on WHO Governance Reform, Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors and the reforms initiated in the wake of the Ebola crises to strengthen WHO's emergency capacities.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Hon'ble Minister of State (MoS) for Labour and Employment, led the government delegation to the 104th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), which was held in Geneva from 1-13 June 2015. Prominent Employer and Worker Groups representatives from India also attended ILC. In addition, Ministers of Labour of the States of Gujarat, Telangana and Madhya

Pradesh also attended the ILC. The significant outcome of the 104th ILC was the adoption of the Recommendation on 'Transition from Informal to Formal Economy', in which India played a constructive role. India also actively participated in the deliberations of various technical committees. India was unanimously elected as the Regional Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Regional Group during the ASPAG Ministerial meeting held during the Conference.

India actively participated in the 325th Session of the Governing Body (GB) of ILO held in November 2015 and as the ASPAG Coordinator, facilitated group positions on many thematic issues as well as country specific complaints. India remained engaged in the ongoing reform process in the ILO including those related to the International Labour Conference, the Review of ILO Supervisory Mechanisms and the Standard Review Mechanism.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The 5th High Level Bilateral Consultations between Government of India led by Secretary (M&ER) Ms. Sujata Mehta and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was held on 26 August 2015 at Geneva, where a range of issues relating to refugees was discussed. UNHCR specifically appreciated India's effective handling of refugees and termed India's refugee protection measures including that for urban refugees as a role model for other countries to follow.

India participated in the 66th Session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR held in Geneva from 5-9 October 2015 and stressed on bringing efficiency, localization of solutions, increased use of cash-based incentives, and acknowledgement of the contribution of developing countries which hosts around 80% of today's refugees. In the High Level Segment (HLS) on Afghanistan, India's developmental cooperation aimed towards creating social and basic infrastructure, employment and meaningful livelihood opportunities for the people of Afghanistan thus contributing towards an enabling environment for return and resettlement of Afghan refugees was highlighted.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

India actively engaged in the meetings organized by Switzerland and International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC) for strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts, in the run up to the 32nd International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2015.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

India continued to play an active role in Programme Coordination Board (PCB) meetings of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) which in 2015 considered and adopted the UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy 2016-2021 and the UNIADS Unified Budget Accountability Framework (UBRAF) 2016-2021. India's suggestions on emphasizing the issue of access to affordable and quality anti-retrovirals for successfully achieving the objective of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 received wide support and were incorporated into the final fast track strategy.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

India actively engaged in the negotiations related to IOM-UN Relations; Migration Governance Framework, Programme and Budget for 2016 and stressed upon the need to further improve efficiency of IOM and retain its position as lead migration agency, while adhering to its core mandate. IOM was continuously reminded to work towards ensuring primacy of the economic and social dimension of migration over the prevailing refugee challenges.

India constructively participated in the deliberations of the 106th Council Session of the IOM held in Geneva from 24-27 November 2015. The Session was notable for adoption of resolutions on IOM-UN Relations and Migration Governance Framework. IOM was encouraged to examine and suggest various strategies and road maps for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to safe, dignified and orderly migration.

Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD)

India effectively articulated the developmental dimension of migration in the 8th Annual Meeting of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) held at Istanbul from 14-16 October 2015. India led the advocacy for creating an enabling environment to harness the true potential of

migration and work towards a win-win situation for sending and destination countries. The success of flagship programs of India, notably *Jan Dhan Yojna*, *Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana*, protection measures offered to migrant workers, social security and welfare schemes were acknowledged and appreciated.

India took the lead in dispelling the notion promoted by some developed countries wherein remittances are portrayed as a substitute for their Overseas Developmental Assistance (ODA) commitments. India emphasized the need to treat remittances as personal earnings of individuals and this has no correlation to the ODA.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

On 3 June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30 which was an outcome of the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held at Sendai, Japan from 14-18 March 2015. India played crucial role in the negotiations, by providing valuable inputs, formulation of common positions with like-minded groups; consultation on topical issues with countries having similar concerns and interests.

India hosted the 2nd International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting on 17-19 November 2015 at New Delhi which was attended by Ministers from Asia-Pacific region and more than 100 policy makers and practitioners. India also announced a contribution of US\$ 1 million to UNISDR towards supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through capacity building and advocacy.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

India continued its engagement in UNCTAD meetings of the Trade and Development Board, Multi-year, and Single-year expert meetings. UNCTAD has been instrumental in providing a realistic policy analysis in the area of Trade and Development for the benefit of all the countries, particularly the Developing countries. India participated in the 62nd session of the Trade and Development Board meeting held in September 2015 where it participated in the discussion at the High-level segment in which two themes namely

multilateral processes for managing sovereign external debt and on role of women as catalyst for trade and development were discussed.

United Nations Commission on Science, Technology and Development (UN-CSTD)

As a member of the UN Commission on Science, Technology and Development (UN-CSTD), India participated in its 18th session held in Geneva in May 2015. India also actively participated in the two ministerial roundtables: one entitled “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable development goals: the role of science, technology and innovation”, and the other entitled “Review of progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes”.

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

The 17th World Meteorological Congress took place in Geneva from 25 May - 12 June 2015. Hon’ble Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Shri Y.S. Chowdary led the Indian delegation to the Congress. India as a member of the Executive Committee of the WMO continued to take active role in evolution of normative and institutional developments in WMO during 2015.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (I/C) for Commerce and Industry led the Indian delegation at the 71st annual Commission Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok on 28-29 May 2015. Smt. Sitharaman delivered a country statement on the theme topic of the Commission Session “Balancing the Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development: from Integration to Implementation” and participated in the Ministerial Roundtable on the same topic. During the Commission Session, India was re-elected to the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) in Incheon and Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) in Beijing.

Financing for Development

Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha led the Indian delegation to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13-16 July 2015. Important outcomes of the Conference included a Technology Facilitation Mechanism and a Mechanism for follow up and review of implementation outcomes of the Financing for Development Conference and the means of implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The outcome document “Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)” adopted at the Conference reaffirmed the principles of 1992 Rio Declaration and provided a global framework for financing for development post-2015.

UN Summit on Sustainable Development

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the UN Summit on Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015. The Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new Agenda is a global blueprint for poverty eradication and sustainable development for the next 15 years.

The 2030 Agenda is successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and comprises 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The Agenda is non-binding and the targets are aspirational, providing policy space and flexibility to developing countries like India to pursue their own path of sustainable development. The Agenda has a holistic approach to sustainable development and environmental protection with its balanced emphasis on economic growth, social development and environmental protection. It reaffirms the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It also has a dedicated goal for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development.

Climate Change

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the High Level Leaders Segment of the 21st session of the Conference of Parties (COP-21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris on 30 November 2015, where he outlined India’s position on key issues related to climate change negotiations. Prime Minister Modi and French President Hollande jointly launched the International Solar Alliance, to bring together

119 solar rich countries falling within the two tropics for promotion of solar technology and its applications. Prime Minister also participated in the launch of the US initiative “Mission Innovation” along with US President Obama, French President Hollande and Bill Gates, which is expected to facilitate affordable access to clean energy technologies.

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar led the Indian delegation to COP-21 from 29 November – 12 December 2015. The text of the Paris Agreement adopted at the plenary meeting of COP 21 on 12 December 2015, preserves the fundamental principles of UNFCCC. It also takes into account India’s core concerns and interests on all elements of the “Durban Platform” relating to mitigation/emissions reduction, adaptation, finance, technology, capacity building and transparency of action and support.

Social and Cultural issues (UNESCO)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited UNESCO Headquarters on 10 April 2015 in Paris to mark the 70th anniversary of the Organization. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to UNESCO. Prime Minister used the occasion to emphasize the importance of India’s relationship with the Organization.

38th Session of the UNESCO General Assembly took place from 3-18 November, 2015. The Hon’ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani, led the Indian Delegation to the Conference, participating in the Leaders’ Forum on 16-17 November 2015. 196th Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO took place from 8 -23 April 2015. Dr. Karan Singh, India’s Representative to the Executive Board participated in the Executive Board Session and delivered the National Statement in the Plenary Debate.

A delegation led by the Hon’ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani participated at the World Education Forum at Incheon South Korea on 21 May 2015. The forum adopted the Incheon Declaration - a transformative vision for education over the next 15 years. Countries and the global education community committed to a single, education agenda—Education 2030—that is holistic, ambitious, inclusive and aspirational. The Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA) was adopted and launched at a high-level meeting, held alongside the 38th UNESCO General Conference on 4 November 2015. The



Prime Minister meeting the President of United States of America (USA), Mr. Barack Obama, on the sidelines of COP 21 Summit, in Paris, France on 30 November 2015



Prime Minister addressing at the Innovation Summit in COP 21, in Paris, France on 30 November 2015. The President of United States of America (USA), Mr. Barack Obama, the President of France, Mr. Francois Hollande and Mr. Bill Gates are also seen.

high-level meeting was attended by more than 70 Ministers, representatives of Member States, the United Nations, multilateral and bi-lateral agencies, civil society, regional organizations, the teaching profession, academia, youth and the private sector. The FFA provides guidance to countries for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal 4 on Education. The essential elements of the FFA were agreed upon at the World Education Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in May 2015.

World Heritage Convention

As member and Vice-Chair of the World Heritage Committee, India played an important and proactive role in the 39th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Bonn (Germany) from 28 June - 8 July 2015. Indian Delegation also contributed immensely to the adoption of important amendments to the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention which relate to promoting more transparency and consultation/dialogue in all processes of evaluation of nominations. Indian Delegation actively participated in the 10th Session of the Inter-governmental Committee on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee held in Windhoek, Namibia from 30 November - 4 December 2015.

Food and Agricultural Organisation Conference (FAO)

A delegation led by Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, participated in the FAO Conference held in June 2015. India was unanimously elected to FAO Council and FAO Programme Committee, WFP Executive Board and IFAD Executive Board. India assumed the Chair of IFAD Evaluation Committee.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held at Doha, Qatar from 12-19 April 2015. The delegation was led by Shri D.V Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice.

UNIDO

India continues to be the member of the UNIDO's Industrial Development Board (IDB) and the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC).

Special Event to mark the 70th Anniversary of ECOSOC

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a special video address as a key note speaker at a special event organised at the UN Headquarters in New York on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 22 January 2016. Prime Minister's emphasis on the centrality of development as a founding vision of the United Nations and his focus on poverty eradication as the greatest unfinished business of the 21st Century resonated very well, particularly with developing country delegations. Prime Minister's address served the purpose of asserting India's historical association with the UN, our commitment to multilateralism, and our emphasis on a proactive role for the UN Development System in the service of the poorest of the poor. Prime Minister's call to the UN system to use the 2030 Agenda as an opportunity to rejuvenate itself and make itself more effective was also very well received.

Legal and Treaties Division

United Nations And International Law

Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly

The Sixth Committee which is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly, provides an opportunity for the UN member States to deliberate and recommend on the issues relating to international law.

Among other topics, terrorism and the related issues remained subject of discussions before the Sixth Committee at the Seventieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly in October and November 2015. In the general debate, the member States strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They noted that terrorist acts committed wherever, by or against whomever, for whatever purposes/causes or considerations cannot be justified. Member States should deny safe haven to terrorists and cooperate in their extradition or prosecution including those who support, facilitate, participate or attempt to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts.

The international community expressed grave concern over the growing threat posed by the ISIL/ISIS (Islamic State) and foreign terrorist fighters, who travel to the areas of conflict from their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training.

In addition to the practical security measures, member States recognized the importance of further strengthening the legal regime to deal with the perpetrators of terrorist acts and their accomplices. The States were called upon to make every effort to conclude the comprehensive convention on international terrorism (CCIT). The Sixth Committee established again the Working Group to finalize the draft CCIT. The Sixth Committee took note of the Working Group's recommendation on outstanding issues relating to the draft CCIT and to establish a Working Group at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly for finalizing the process on the draft convention.

The Working Group of the Sixth Committee encouraged all Member States to redouble their efforts during the inter-sessional period. The States are called to hold inter-sessional informal consultation/meetings to try to reconcile the differences on the outstanding issues and to finalise the draft CCIT.

Other subjects/topics considered by the Sixth Committee at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session include- Rule of Law at the National and International Level; Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on Mission; Universal Jurisdiction; United Nations programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of International Law; Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

The Sixth Committee also considered and debated the Report of the International Law Commission which include the following topics - Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction; Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties; Most-Favoured-Nation clause; Provisional application of treaties; Identification of customary international law; Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts; Protection

of the atmosphere; Crimes against humanity; and *Jus cogens*.

The Legal & Treaties Division prepared statements on all the subjects/topics considered by the Sixth Committee and participated in the relevant debates.

The UNGA fixed 14 December 2015 for adoption of resolutions on these subjects/topics on the basis of the Sixth Committee Reports.

International Law Week

During the main part of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly "International Law Week" was attended by Dr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma, Director and Head of the Legal and Treaties Division from 29 October - 4 November 2015. The meeting of the Sixth Committee (Legal) and other international law related activities and events that took place during the International Law Week include:

- Working Group on International Terrorism, wherein, the outstanding issues relating to the text of the proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and other issues relating to curbing of terrorism were discussed.
- Consideration of the Report of the International Law Commission, wherein the work of the ILC on various topics of international law was examined and comments were prepared for the Indian Statements.
- Meeting of Legal Advisers, which Canada coordinated this year and wherein the topics concerning Consular Relations in an era of globalization; and International Criminal Tribunals were discussed.
- AALCO Meeting and Events took stock of the work done at the 54th annual session of Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in Beijing, China in April 2015. AALCO also organised panel presentations focusing on conflict resolution, peace and security, terrorism, and customary international law. An informal dialogue also took place on international dispute adjudication procedure.
- Bilateral Meetings were held with the legal advisors of

Switzerland, ICRC and UK who mainly had brief discussion on issues relating to the international humanitarian law. Director of Legal Department of Russia organized an informal meeting of legal advisers of BRICS Countries to explore the possibility of regular annual meetings to discuss matters of common concern.

Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Issues relating to oceans and the law of the sea were discussed at various forums including at the meeting of States parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982; Informal Consultative Process; Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction; regular process for assessment of marine environment; Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf; and meetings of International Seabed Authority.

Sixteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNOICPOL) was held at the United Nations Headquarters from 6-10 April 2015, wherein the discussions took place on the topic: "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic".

New development agenda titled: "Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development" was adopted by the UNGA on 25 September 2015. This agenda is based, inter alia, on 17 sustainable development goals and their associated targets, including goal 14, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". It recognizes that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of the planet's natural resources, including oceans and seas.

The Legal & Treaties Division actively participated and contributed on various legal aspects which came up during these law of the sea meetings.

Twenty-first Annual Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) was held in Kingston, Jamaica from 13-24 July 2015. The Indian delegation was joined by Shri M. Koteswara Rao, Counsellor (LA), PMI, New York who was also elected to the Finance Committee of ISA during the session.

Special Committee on the UN Charter

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the Strengthening the role of the Organisation (Charter Committee) meets annually in New York. Its reports are considered in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly. The last meeting of the Special Committee was held in February 2015, in which the important proposals considered related to the question of the maintenance of international peace and security; the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter; issues concerning relationship between organs of the United Nations and; the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Indian delegation maintained that maintenance of the international peace and security is paramount. The delegation noted that the Security Council has the primary responsibility to maintain the peace and security in the discharge of its duties on behalf of all UN member States. The sanctions could be important tool in the task of maintenance of peace and security however, they should be issued and applied only as a last resort, having exhausted all other options, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. Further, support was expressed for efforts to examine and strengthen the relationship among the organs of the United Nations, in particular, between the General Assembly and the Security Council. In this regard, we drew attention of the member States to the 2012 Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, which stressed the importance of the continuing efforts to reform the Security Council.

While considering the report of the Special Committee, the Sixth Committee has recommended to the General Assembly that the Special Committee continue to consider the subjects/issues on its agenda in its next meeting.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and its Working Groups.

The Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation),

during its meeting held from 7-11 September 2015 at Vienna deliberated upon the topic of enforcement of settlement agreements to identify relevant issues on the basis of documents prepared by the Secretariat.

The Working Group VI (Security Interest) held in Vienna from 12-16 October 2015, at its 28th Session, continued its work on the preparation of a model law on secured transactions (the draft Model Law), pursuant to its decision at the 45th Session of 2012.

Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce) of the UNCITRAL, at its 52nd Session held in Vienna from 9-13 November 2015, considered the draft Model Law on electronic transferable records. As the Model Law is in the final stage of preparation, the Working Group discussed about the topics to be taken up in future which include identity management and trust services, cloud computing and mobile commerce. It was decided to conduct colloquia on the identified subjects and to prepare the basic draft for discussion at the future Sessions.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) was held in Beijing, People's Republic of China from 13 - 17 April 2015. 40 Member States of AALCO, including India attended the Session.

The year 2015, being the year marking the 70th Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Charter and 60th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference, this AALCO session assumed significance. It may be recalled that AALCO was an outcome of the historic Bandung Conference.

During the session, deliberations were held on the items, namely, Law of the Sea; Deportation of Palestinians; Violent Extremism and Terrorism (Legal Aspects); Environment and Sustainable Development; and Report on the Work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and Other International Organizations in the Field of International Trade Law. Besides deliberations on the above topics, a half-day special sessions was held on selected topics under consideration of the International Law Commission"; and "International Law in Cyberspace." A Special Event on "Commemorating the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Bandung Conference" was organized. Parallel side event was

organized for discussion on "UN Charter and the Post-War International Order".

India made statements on all the agenda items and topics discussed during the 54th AALCO Session.

Hague Conference on Private International Law (Hcch)

The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference held in The Hague wherein 180 participants took part representing 64 Members including India.

Council, among other things, took note of Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts which were finalized in accordance with the procedure established by the Council in 2014. The Council appreciated the work carried out by the Permanent Bureau on the issues surrounding the status of children, including issues arising from international surrogacy arrangements and decided that an Experts Group be convened to explore the feasibility of advancing work in this area.

From 8-12 June 2015 a meeting was convened for reviewing the practical operation of the 1993 Hague Inter-country Adoption Convention. It was attended by 74 States and 19 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations including representatives from Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, Contracting States to the Convention, non -contracting States that are actively exploring the possibility of joining the Convention, and interested international organizations. Representatives from Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), the nodal authority from India and the Legal & Treaties Division participated in the deliberations. It was widely acknowledged that the landscape of inter-country adoption has changed over past 20 years and need of the hour was to have cooperation and coordination between States to share good practices and address the issue of illicit practices. This meeting of the Commission made certain recommendations regarding the application of - Subsidiary principle of the Convention; discussion on *kafala*, as a child protection measure at the next Special Commission's meeting on the practical operation of the 1996 Hague Convention; and inclusion of the subject of inter-country adoption in the agenda for the fourth "Malta Judicial Conference on Cross-Frontier Family Law Issues".

The Hague Conference also held a meeting on the Use of Video-link and Other Modern Technologies in the Taking of Evidence Abroad on 24 December 2015 pursuant to recommendations of the 2014 Special Commission meeting. The participants presented the experience of their States regarding the taking of evidence by video-link under the Evidence Convention and other international / regional instruments. India shared its legal position concerning the taking of evidence abroad by video-link.

International Dispute Adjudication Involving India

On 26 June 2015, Italy notified its claim instituting proceedings against India before an arbitral tribunal to be constituted under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It relates to Enrica Lexie incident happened on 15 February 2012, 20.5 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala in India involving the *MV Enrica Lexie*, an oil tanker flying the Italian flag resulting in the death of two Indian fishermen when the Italian naval personnel on board, Massimiliano Lattore and Salvatore Girone suspected of having shot the fishermen, were detained by the Indian law enforcement authorities and the case is pending before the Indian Court.

Pending the constitution of arbitral Tribunal, Italy had submitted the request to International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for prescribing the provisional measures to instruct India not to exercise any form of jurisdiction over that incident and to lift restrictions on the liberty, security and movement of the marines who is in India to enable him to travel to and remain in Italy and to allow the other marine (who is in Italy) to remain in Italy throughout the duration of the proceedings before the Annex VII Tribunal. On 10 & 11 August 2015, the ITLOS heard the matter concerning the Italy's request for provisional measures, pending the constitution of Annex VII Tribunal.

The ITLOS pronounced its order on 24 August 2015 wherein it instructed both Italy and India to suspend all court proceedings and to refrain from initiating new ones and rejected the plea of Italy for allowing the Italian marine who is in India to travel and remain in Italy.

Consequently, the Annex VII Arbitral Tribunal has been constituted comprising of five members viz., Prof. Francesco Francion (Italy), Judge Shri P. Chandrasekhara Rao

(India), Judge Robinson (Jamaica), Judge Golitsyn (Russian Federation) and Judge Palik (Republic of Korea). This Arbitral Tribunal will now consider the jurisdictional issues of the incident on merit.

Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. India): Marshall Islands had made an application before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) instituting a case against nine countries including India. Other countries are, UK, Pakistan, Israel, France, China, USA, Russia and North Korea. India submitted its Counter-Memorial in the ICJ and the case shall come up for the oral proceedings in March 2016.

The 14th Session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the International Criminal Court (ICC) was held in The Hague from 18-26 November 2015, wherein India participated as an observer as India is not a party to the Statute establishing International Criminal Court. The ASP, by a decision, brought an amendment to the ICC Statute by deleting Article 124 of the Statute. This Article contained a transitional provision, which allowed a State, upon becoming party to the Statute, to declare that it does not accept the jurisdiction of the Court over war crimes committed in its territory or by its nationals for a period of seven years.

Treaty Negotiations

The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the negotiations on the “2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21”, held in Paris from 30 November - 12 December 2015. As an outcome, International community has successfully concluded and adopted the “Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”, to deal with the climate change issues.

The Legal & Treaties Division also participated in the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held at Geneva from 8-10 December 2015 in which discussions took place on humanitarian issues with a view to ensure adherence to the international humanitarian law norms.

The Legal & Treaties Division also participated in negotiations of Free Trade Agreements with Australia, Thailand and Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area and contributed in the negotiation of several Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements and some of them

are in the process of finalization with China, Turkmenistan, Seychelles, Kuwait and Korea.

A number of Arrangements on Gainful Occupation/Employment of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts were discussed and are in the process of finalization/concluded with Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Swiss Federal Council, Malaysia, Spain, Ireland, France, Finland, Mauritius and Poland.

Legal & Treaties Division has participated in various bilateral negotiations for concluding Extradition Treaties, Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters and Transfer of Sentenced Persons with foreign countries. The Pre-Independence Extradition Treaty between India and Chile was notified in the Official Gazette in April, 2015. The process of notifying Extradition Treaty between India and Bangladesh has been initiated after the completion of internal legal procedures by both the States. Mutual Legal Assistance between India and Uzbekistan, Cuba, Jordan, Italy, Colombia, Mozambique, Belarus, Peru and Oman were negotiated/finalized during the year 2015. The Legal & Treaties Division examined extradition requests and other requests for international cooperation in the civil and criminal matters, received from the domestic as well as foreign jurisdictions and rendered legal advice thereon.

The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the XXXVIII Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Committee (ATCM) held at Sofia, Bulgaria from 28 May - 7 June 2015. The meeting was attended by 30 Consultative Parties, including India, and 12 other non-consultative Contracting Parties and other observer organizations. The work of the ATCM was conducted within different Groups, namely, (a) Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) of Antarctica, (b) Working Group on Legal and Institutional matters, (c) Working Group on Tourism and Non-Governmental Operations and (d) Working Group on Operational Matters. The Legal and Institutional Working Group vetted the outcome resolutions adopted by the CEP and the other Working Groups before their adoption by the ATCM Plenary. Besides, the Legal and Institutional Working Group discussed three main issues namely, (a) operation of Antarctic system; (b) liability: Implementation of ATCM Decision 4 (2010) and (c) International Maritime Organization's Polar Code.

The Legal & Treaties Division also participated in the third session of the Subsidiary Committee of the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970 UNESCO, in Paris.

Online Treaty Database

The Legal & Treaties Division has launched a dedicated web module on the MEA website under the link [Indian Treaties Database](#) during 2014 and the Treaties/Agreements/MoUs and other important matters entered into by the Government of the Republic of India with Foreign countries are now available in the public domain for the period covering from 1950 till 2015. It is the endeavor of the Legal & Treaties Division to update the database regularly.

Examination/Vetting of Treaties

Legal & Treaties Division has examined a number of international law issues related to international treaties/agreements and rendered legal opinion. It also vetted treaties, agreements, MoUs in the areas including defence co-operation, Railways, SAARC, Health, bio-technology, outer space issues, science and technology, BRICS (conglomeration of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), agreements relating to international terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking/narcotics; also agreements on confidentiality; sharing of hydrological data; gas and energy; bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation, audio visual, road transport, trade and investment, projects, education, tourism, climate change, protection of natural resources; hydrography, twinning/sister city agreements and customs cooperation, etc.

India has signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries during the year 2015. A comprehensive list is placed at **Appendix-I**. The list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during the year 2015 is at **Appendix-II** and the list of Instruments of Ratification processed during the year 2015 is at **Appendix-III**.

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Disarmament and International Security Affairs

In 2015-16, India continued to play an active role at various multilateral fora on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, leading towards general and complete disarmament. India's position on these issues was guided by its national security interests and its tradition of close engagement with the international community in promoting cooperative efforts to deal with various traditional and non traditional security challenges.

India was actively at work at the meetings of the UN First Committee in New York, UN Disarmament Commission, Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC) in Geneva, Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in The Hague, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva, UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW) in New York.

United Nations General Assembly

At the 2015 UN General Assembly, India reiterated its commitment to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

At the 2015 First Committee, as an active NAM member, India supported the group's resolution "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament" The resolution inter-alia called for urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Nuclear Weapons Convention, welcomed the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and recalled its decision to convene a high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament by the UN no later than 2018.

During the general and thematic debate on nuclear weapons at the 2015 First Committee of UN, India's Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament also

emphasised India's commitment to nuclear disarmament and reiterated a number of measures proposed by India to this end. Aligning India's national security interests with its commitment to nuclear disarmament, India also reaffirmed its support for the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

India's 2002 resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction" was re-adopted by consensus, with 91 countries co-sponsoring the resolution in 2015. It highlighted the continued unanimity in the international community on the issue. The resolution called upon UN Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and to support international efforts in this regard.

India's resolution on "Convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons" restated the call to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to initiate negotiations on an international Convention for prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. In the context of the current discussions in the international community on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, the resolution has acquired even more relevance. It is indicative of the belief that a multilateral, universal and legally binding instrument prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons would assist in creating a conducive climate for nuclear weapon prohibition negotiations at the CD platform. With co-sponsorship by 39 countries, the resolution was adopted by a majority vote by the First Committee. India's third resolution "Reducing nuclear danger" highlighted the need for a review of nuclear doctrines and immediate steps to reduce the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through their de-alerting and de-targeting. This resolution was also adopted by a majority vote, with an increase in the number of co-sponsors to 34.

The First Committee also adopted a draft decision proposed by India on “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”.

UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)

The 2015 substantive session of the UN Disarmament Commission was held from 06-24 April 2015. In accordance with the agenda adopted by the Commission for its 2015-17 cycle, the Commission deliberated on its two agenda items related to nuclear disarmament and CBMs in the field of conventional weapons. In order to help in achieving consensus recommendations, India took an active part in the deliberations of the Commission. India reiterated the high importance attached by it to the work of the UNDC as the specialised deliberative leg of the UN Disarmament machinery in taking forward multilateral disarmament agenda, especially underscoring the universality of UNDC.

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

At the various CD discussions throughout the year, India continued stressing the need for the commencement of substantive work in the CD by adopting a Programme of Work and actively participated in the work of the Informal Working Group to this effect. India also shared its perspective on all issues on the CD’s agenda including the four core issues of Nuclear Disarmament, Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) and Negative Security Assurances (NSAs). It may be noted that, India was also an active participant in the structured informal debate in the CD on its four core agenda items. India re-enunciated the value attached by it to CD as the only global level multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. It highlighted the prime importance attached by the International Community to nuclear disarmament. India also conveyed its support for negotiations in the Conference of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) which is in consonance with India’s national security interests. India also expressed its conviction that the Conference has the membership, the credibility and the Rules of Procedure to discharge its mandate.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

In 2015, India actively coordinated with the various UNSC bodies pertaining to non-proliferation and counter terrorism. In this context, India has been coordinating with

the Security Council Committee established pursuant to UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) which obliges States, *inter alia*, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems.

In addition, India has closely coordinated with the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), which works to bolster the ability of United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

At the annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW held on 12-13 November 2015 in Geneva, India outlined its support to the CCW as an important instrument of international humanitarian law within the UN framework that brings together all the main users and producers of certain conventional weapons. India supported continued discussion on issues relating to lethal autonomous weapons systems in the CCW in 2016, on the basis of the previously agreed mandate. At the 17th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol-II (AP-II) held on 11 November 2015, India expressed its support for the approach enshrined in AP-II and its commitment for the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. India also supported continuing work on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) under AP-II. At the 9th Annual Conference of Protocol V held on 9-10 November 2015, India contributed to discussion on all issues including generic preventive measures, recording and transmission of information on explosive remnants of war, cooperation and assistance and victim assistance. India also participated actively in the Meetings of Experts of both Protocol V and AP-II held in April 2015. India attended the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) held in Geneva from 30 November - 04 December 2015 as an Observer state.

Biological Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

India made substantial contributions to BTWC’s annual Meeting of Experts held from 10-14 August 2015 and the Meeting of States Parties held from 14-18 December 2015. At the 2015 Meeting of Experts India reiterated the high

importance attached by it to the BTWC as the first multilateral, non-discriminatory treaty banning an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. India expressed support for improving the effectiveness of the Convention, strengthening its implementation, and efforts for its universalization. The BTWC meetings involved extensive discussions on the three agenda items (cooperation and assistance, review of S&T developments and national implementation) and the biennial agenda item (Assistance and Cooperation under Article VII) as decided by the 7th Review Conference. As a contribution towards preparations for the Eighth Review Conference to be held in 2016, India submitted a Working Paper with France containing a Proposal on Establishing a Database on Assistance under Article VII of the BWC, and a Working Paper with the United States on Strengthening Implementation of Article III of the BWC.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

As a member of the Executive Council (EC) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), India contributed significantly to the formulation, drafting, deliberation and adoption of various important decisions. As in previous years, India continued to play an active role by engaging with the States Parties during the three regular sessions of the Executive Council, numerous special meetings of the Executive Council and the Conference of States Parties (CSP) (30 November- 4 December 2015) on issues related to chemical weapons destruction, industry inspection, national implementation and international cooperation and assistance.

India hosted a visit of the OPCW Director-General (DG) Mr. Ahmet Uzumcu to India, from 2-5 September 2015. DG acknowledged India's high level of commitment to the chemical weapons disarmament regime and its valuable contribution to the OPCW's training and assistance activities aimed at enhancing international co-operation and capacity building mechanisms. During the visit, DG addressed think-tanks, academia, students and industry representatives at Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) in Mumbai. An Indian national, Shri Hamid Ali Rao, was appointed Deputy Director General of the OPCW in July 2015.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and

Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPOA) adopted in July 2001, provides for a comprehensive set of national, regional and global measures to achieve its goal. India participated in the Second Open-Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) held in New York from 1-5 June 2015. The Member States unanimously reaffirmed the validity of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. Key implementation challenges and opportunities relating to particular issues and themes were also discussed in which India participated actively.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

India participated in the 59th Session of the IAEA General Conference held in Vienna from 13-18 September 2015. The Indian delegation had important bilateral meetings with USA, Russia, France, Bangladesh, UK, Argentina and Sri Lanka. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) also organised an exhibition during the week of the General Conference.

Civil Nuclear cooperation

During the visit of the Prime Minister to France (9-12 April 2015), a MoU between M/s Larsen and Toubro and M/s Areva aimed at cost reduction by increasing localization and improving the financial viability of the Jaitapur nuclear power project was signed. A Pre-engineering Agreement was also signed between M/s NPCIL and M/s Areva.

During the visit of the Prime Minister to Canada (14-16 April 2015), an Agreement for long-term supply of uranium to India to meet its energy needs, was signed between the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) of the Government of India and M/s CAMECO of Canada. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) of India and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission also finalized an arrangement for regulatory cooperation in the field of nuclear and radiation safety regulation (subsequently signed in September 2015). The 3rd meeting of the Joint Committee under the India - Canada nuclear cooperation Agreement was held in Mumbai on 16 October 2015. An Overseas Canadian Nuclear Industry delegation visited New Delhi/Mumbai at the same time.

During the visit of Prime Minister to Mongolia (17 May 2015), a MoU for Gifting Bhabhatron-II Tele-therapy Unit along with a Radiotherapy Simulator, was signed between the Tata Memorial Centre of India and the National Cancer Centre of Mongolia.

The Agreement between India and Sri Lanka on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy entered into force on 2 June 2015. The Agreement is expected to facilitate cooperation in the transfer and exchange of knowledge and expertise, sharing of resources, capacity building and training of personnel in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

A long term contract between DAE of Republic of India and JSC National Atomic Company “KazAtomProm” for sale and purchase of natural uranium concentrates was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister to Kazakhstan (7-8 July 2015).

During the visit of the Prime Minister to UK (12 November 2015), the Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed. A MoU between the UK and DAE was also signed to encourage joint training and experience sharing in cooperation with the India’s Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP).

The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy entered into force on 13 November 2015, following the completion of respective internal procedures. The agreement is to, *inter alia*, promote cooperation whereby Australia can play the role of a long-term supplier of uranium to India.

India and the US have continued their bilateral civil nuclear cooperation interactions under the Contact Group mechanism. The fifth meeting of the Contact Group was held in November 2015. A US-India Business Council (USIBC)-Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) nuclear trade mission visited New Delhi/Mumbai in December 2015.

During the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan to India (12 December 2015), the two Prime Ministers exchanged a Memorandum concerning the Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy as per which both sides confirmed having reached an agreement towards cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

During the visit of the Prime Minister to Russia (24 December 2015), the two sides signed a “Programme of Action Agreed Between The Department of Atomic Energy of India And The Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rosatom” for Localization of Manufacturing in India for Russian-Designed Nuclear Reactor Units”. The Programme aims at progressive localization of Russian built nuclear plants in India in pursuance of plans for future cooperation

envisioned under the India-Russia Strategic Vision for civil nuclear cooperation of December 2014.

During the visit of the President of France to India (25 January 2016), the two leaders encouraged their industrial companies to conclude techno-commercial negotiations by the end of 2016 for the construction of six nuclear power reactor units at Jaitapur, with due consideration to cost viability of the project, economical financing from the French side, collaboration on transfer of technology and cost-effective localisation of manufacturing in India for large and critical components in accord with Government of India’s “Make in India” initiative. The two sides also agreed on a roadmap of cooperation to speed up discussions on the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project in 2016. Their shared aim is to start the implementation of the project in early 2017. The two sides also initialed a revised MOU between EDF and NPCIL for the construction of six EPR units at Jaitapur.

A financial risk management mechanism christened as the India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) was formally launched in July 2015 with GIC Re as the principal contributor. The pool is expected to initiate commercial operations shortly. This mechanism is expected to address concerns on India’s Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010.

Nuclear Security

India participated in preparatory meetings for the Nuclear Security Summit at Vilnius, Lithuania (July 2015), Almaty, Kazakhstan (December 2015) and Stockholm, Sweden (February 2016). In addition, India also participated in the Drafting Group meetings held at Lyon, France (April 2015) and New York (May 2015). India is contributing actively to the finalization of the NSS Action Plans/Summit outcomes to ensure that the legacy of the NSS process can be suitably carried forward in the relevant organizations, chiefly the IAEA. The Prime Minister attended the Summit [31 March - 01 April 2016] at Washington.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a 26-member regional forum for dialogue and cooperation to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Asian region. In 2015, India participated in the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meetings held in Beijing from 24-26 August 2015. India underlined its

support for the implementation and further consolidation of confidence building measures (CBMs) in the existing areas based on consensus and a step-by-step approach rooted in Asian realities. India is co-coordinating two CBMs namely 'Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors' and 'Energy security'.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Related Fora

India's participation in the ARF is underlined by its increasingly greater involvement in the Asia-Pacific region, both in the politico-security and economic spheres. Minister of State for External Affairs Minister Gen (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd) led the Indian delegation at the 22nd ARF Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 6 August 2015. There was consensus regarding growing number of initiatives aimed at building regional preventive diplomacy capacities including coordination and complementarities between various ASEAN led regional security mechanisms. On the issue of South China Sea, which has emerged as a contentious topic during discussions in various political and security related fora of the region, India highlighted the need for ensuring freedom of Navigation, over flight and unimpeded commerce. India participated in ARF's Senior Officials Meeting, Inter-Sessional Group meetings on Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, Counter-Terrorism & Transnational Crimes, Non-proliferation & Disarmament, Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting and ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue and various cooperation activities and seminars. India also participated in the ARF Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF DiREx 2015) held in Kedah and Perlis, Malaysia from 24-28 May 2015.

The Indian delegation to 3rd ADMM-Plus Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 03 November 2015 was led by the Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parikar. India also participated in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) Expert Working Groups (EWG) on HADR, Military Medicine, Maritime Security, Peace keeping Operations, Counter Terrorism and is Co-Chairing the EWG on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) in the current cycle from 2014-2017.

India will co-chair with Laos PDR in 2016 the ARF Inter-Sessional Group (ISG) on CBMs/Preventive Diplomacy which is the third working level clearing house under the ARF framework (after the Senior Officials' Meeting).

Maritime Affairs

India hosted the inaugural Indo- Australian Maritime

Affairs Dialogue in November 2015 in New Delhi. The second bilateral maritime dialogue was held with Japan in Tokyo (October 2015). During the dialogues, wide spectrum of maritime security issues was discussed.

India actively participated in the cooperation fora related to the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). For the first time, financial contribution of USD 50,000 (fifty thousand) was made to the SOMS Aids to Navigation Fund.

Export Control

India is involved with the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the three other multilateral export control regimes, namely, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Australia Group (AG) and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) as well as the individual members of these four regimes with a view to forward the issue of our membership to these regimes. Membership of the regimes is, inter-alia, expected to ease India's access to dual-use and high technology items as well as strengthen global non-proliferation efforts.

In June 2015, New Delhi witnessed the outreach visit of the MTCR delegation led by its Chairman. India submitted its formal application for membership of MTCR in June 2015. The application has been well received and remains under consideration of the MTCR. NSG Chairman visited India in October 2015 for talks on NSG and nuclear commerce. He also called on EAM during his visit. During the year, Indian experts participated in the Technical Experts meeting of the Wassenaar Arrangement held in Vienna in June 2015 and the Australia Group Dialogue for non-members in Perth in June 2015. Bilateral dialogues on export control were held with Germany, Japan and Australia. A working Group meeting of the India-Germany High Technology Partnership Group (HTPG) was held in September 2015.

Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), 1997

On 4 February 2016, India deposited with the IAEA, its Instrument of Ratification for the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) adopted in 1997 and signed by India on 27 October 2010. This marked a conclusive step in the addressing of issues related to civil nuclear liability in India, marked earlier by the release of FAQs on Civil Nuclear Liability in February 2015 and the subsequent launch of the India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP). ■ ■

BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, led the Indian delegation to the 7th BRICS Summit on 8-9 July 2015 in Ufa, Russia. The BRICS Summit was held under the Russian Chairmanship. The theme of the Summit was “BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development.” The Leaders discussed a wide range of issues including UN Reforms, IMF Reforms, WTO, G20, regional and global political developments, terrorism, New Development Bank (NDB), BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), cooperation in ICTs and other issues relating to intra-BRICS Cooperation. The Leaders adopted the Ufa Declaration and Action Plan at the Summit.

Key outcomes of the 7th BRICS Summit include an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, an MoU on the Creation of a Joint BRICS Website and an MoU under the BRICS Inter-Bank Mechanism on Cooperation with the NDB. The BRICS Strategy for Economic Partnership which was also adopted by the Leaders at the Summit includes cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, finance, manufacturing, energy, agriculture, science & technology, connectivity, ICT, etc.

In his interventions at the Summit, Prime Minister stressed the need for timely reform of the United Nations Security Council for it to be relevant in the 21st century. He called for the BRICS countries to work together in the UN Security Council and various Committees to address the primary security challenge related to terrorism, and stressed the need for effective action, without selectivity, against sponsors of terrorism. He suggested establishment of a BRICS Energy Efficiency Technologies Programme in order to provide affordable renewable energy globally. He also proposed that the first project to be funded by the NDB should be in the field of clean energy. Prime Minister underlined the need to focus on women’s empowerment.

Russia also hosted a BRICS-Outreach session on 9 July 2015 with the 10 invited leaders of the Eurasian Economic Union and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) – Members and Observers – Afghanistan, Armenia, Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. At the BRICS Outreach session, energy, connectivity and infrastructure development emerged as areas of common interest where BRICS countries may work with Central Asian countries for inclusive and sustainable development of the region.

BRICS Leaders’ Meeting on the margins of G20 Summit

Prime Minister attended a meeting of BRICS Leaders in Antalya, Turkey on 15 November 2015 on the margins of the 10th G20 Summit. The meeting was hosted by the Russian President in his capacity as the current BRICS Chair. The agenda comprised exchange of views on the G20 Summit agenda and intra-BRICS issues including the BRICS Strategy for Economic Partnership, the New Development Bank and Contingent Reserve Arrangement. The Leaders expressed support and solidarity with Russia in connection with the loss of lives due to crash of a Russian commercial flight over Egypt. They also expressed their support to France in light of the terrorist attack in Paris on 13 November 2015 on the eve of the G20 Summit and resolved to work together in combating terrorism. During the meeting, Prime Minister stressed that fighting terrorism must be a priority for BRICS. He announced that the theme of India’s BRICS Chairmanship [during February–December 2016] would be “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions”. Prime Minister also proposed setting up of the New Development Bank Institute (NDBI). A Media Note was issued after the meeting.



Prime Minister attends 7th BRICS summit in Ufa, Russia (09 July 2015)



Prime Minister with other BRICS leaders at a meeting, on the sidelines of G20 Summit 2015, in Turkey on 15 November 2015.

BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting

External Affairs Minister hosted a meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers in New York on 29 September 2015 on the margins of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly. The Ministers discussed global and regional issues, global economic and financial scenario, key issues on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and intra-BRICS cooperation. A Press Release was issued after the meeting. The Ministerial meeting was preceded by BRICS Sherpas' meeting hosted by Russia.

IBSA Dialogue Forum

The Focal Points (Senior Officials) of IBSA [India, Brazil and South Africa] Dialogue Forum met in New York on 25 September 2015. This was their 25th meeting since inception of IBSA in June 2003. They reaffirmed continued relevance of IBSA in the light of growing importance of South-South cooperation. Brazil and South Africa welcomed new initiatives for IBSA cooperation proposed by India in the fields of micro financing, satellites-based applications, smart cities and joint Antarctica expedition.

Group of Fifteen (G-15) Meeting of Foreign Ministers

The 38th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of G-15 was held on 1 October 2015 in New York. Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York chaired the meeting on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. India was represented by an officer from the headquarters. In the country statement, India stressed the need for the G-15 to energize itself by strengthening its South-South cooperation activities and also emerging as a platform for global policy discourse on sustainable development issues particularly to realize the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The 10th G20 Summit

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 10th G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey on 15-16 November 2015. The agenda of the Summit included terrorism, refugee crisis, climate change, the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference, global economy, growth and employment and investment strategies, enhancing resilience, financial regulation, international tax, anti-corruption, IMF reforms and energy. The G20 Leaders

issued a Communiqué and a standalone statement on Fight Against Terrorism at the Summit.

Prime Minister made lead intervention on Development and Climate Change at the Summit. He put forward several new ideas at the Summit. In his intervention on terrorism, Prime Minister called for deepening of cooperation against terrorism financing, including through targeted financial sanctions and more effective counter-terrorism financing tools. He urged adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism without any delay. He called for vigorous efforts to prevent supply of arms to terrorists, disrupt terrorist movements, and curb and criminalize terror financing. He also stressed mutual assistance in minimizing use of internet and social media for terrorist activities. He also emphasized the need to involve religious leaders, thinkers and opinion makers for a social movement against extremism, particularly addressed to the youth. While welcoming the ongoing G20 work on promotion of transparency and integrity in the private sector, Prime Minister made strong pitch for the G20 to accord priority to combat corruption. On the issue of return of illicit money to the country of origin, Prime Minister urged greater international cooperation and the need to address the barriers of excessive banking secrecy, and complex legal and regulatory frameworks.

In the context of the goal set at the last G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia in 2014 to lift the G20's collective GDP by additional two percent by 2018 over the 2013 level, Prime Minister put forward the suggestion that the G20 should build support systems that focus on countries with maximum growth potential and help them address their specific bottlenecks and facilitate implementation of country strategies to boost growth.

In his intervention on trade and energy, Prime Minister stressed that the Doha Round should achieve its goals and all elements of the Bali package should be implemented. He also underlined that the regional trade agreements should not lead to fragmentation of the global trading system. He called for enhancing research and development in clean and renewable energy with a view to reduce cost and make it affordable and accessible for all. He also called for greater voice to major emerging economies in the global governance structure for energy.



Prime Minister at the G20 Summit working session on inclusive growth, in Turkey on 15 November 2015.



15th IORA Council of Ministers meeting, Padang, Indonesia

15th Meeting of IORA Council of Ministers

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.), led the Indian delegation to the 15th Meeting of IORA [Indian Ocean Rim Association] Council of Ministers hosted by Indonesia in Padang, on 23 October 2015. At the meeting Indonesia assumed the Chair of the Association from Australia for the duration 2015-17. South Africa assumed the Vice-Chair from Indonesia for 2015-17.

The meeting welcomed Somalia as the 21st member of IORA. Germany became the 7th Dialogue Partner of IORA; other Dialogue Partners are China, Egypt, France, Japan, the UK and the US.

The Meeting adopted the Padang Communiqué, IORA Maritime Cooperation Declaration and the Decision on the Establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee on the IORA Concord.

India's proposal at the meeting that IORA Troika [present (Indonesia), past (Australia) and incoming (South Africa) Chairs] may institutionalize annual meetings with ASEAN Chair at Senior Official level to hold consultation on issues of mutual interest was unanimously welcomed. MoS also suggested that challenges of non-traditional security threats flowing from piracy, smuggling and transnational crime and natural disasters, call for a region-wide approach. He announced a contribution of US\$ 100,000/- to IORA Special Fund and technical assistance in terms of providing laptops and a photocopier to the IORA Secretariat.

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South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) & The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

India, because of its geography, economy, international stature and commitment to the region, is central to SAARC. Its contribution to SAARC is also seminal. India has cumulatively contributed over US\$ 530 million to SAARC institutions for socio-economic development.

Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi had made a number of unilateral offers from India at the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu (November, 2014). Work is in progress for implementation of these announcements and a number of targets have been achieved as per the following:-

At the 18th SAARC Summit the PM had stated in his speech:

“We speak of ease of doing business in India. Let us extend this to our region. I promise to ensure that our facilities at the border will speed up, not slow down trade...India will now give business visa for 3-5 years for SAARC.”

Pursuant to the above-mentioned announcement, long term business visas up to 3-5 years are being issued to businessmen from SAARC countries.

“India would support monitoring and surveillance of polio free country.....”

Health officials/experts from Afghanistan participated in India’s Sub-National Polio Immunisation Day (SNID) on 22 November 2015 for observing and learning from best practices followed in India.

“The dream of a South Asian University has become a reality in New Delhi. But, to be truly South Asian, it must also have partnerships with at least one university in each SAARC country.”

South Asian University has established partnership with at least one university in each SAARC country.

“In the area of health,for those coming to India for medical treatment, India will provide immediate medical visas for the patient and an attendant.”

Medical visas for patients and accompanying attendants are being issued by our Missions in SAARC countries on priority basis.

“As neighbours, we should also be together in good and bad times... Equally, as we reach out to Indians caught in conflicts and disasters around the world, we also be there for all our South Asian citizens.”

Necessary assistance is being provided as and when required.

The SAARC Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation (Electricity) was signed at the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu (November 2014). The Agreement would provide a conducive environment to facilitate cross border electricity trade within the SAARC region. India ratified the Agreement on 31 July 2015.

During April-November 2015, SAARC Division facilitated the following SAARC activities in India:-

- Special SAARC Meeting of Representatives of Ministries of Commerce and Finance to prioritize recommendations of Regional Economic Integration Study (Phase-II) from 14-15 April 2015 in Goa.
- Training Programme on Health and Demographic Statistics, NSSTA from 5-9 October 2015 at Noida (UP).

- Fourth Meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee on Jute, Textiles and Leather from 23-24 June 2015 in New Delhi.
- Workshop on Use of Models in Crop Yield Estimation NSSTA from 2-6 November 2015 at Noida (UP).
- SAARC-Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) 2-day Sensitization Programme for Regulators of SAARC countries on ‘Importance of Third Party Assessment and Accreditation’ from 15-16 September 2015 in New Delhi.
- Fourth Meeting of the SAARC Competent Authorities on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters from 23-24 April 2015 in New Delhi.
- Fifth SAARC Health Ministers Meeting on 8 April 2015 in New Delhi.
- Seventh Meeting of Expert Group Meeting on HIV/AIDS on 7 April 2015 in New Delhi.
- Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee on Health and Population Activities on 6 April 2015 in New Delhi.
- 5th Meeting of SAARC Working Group on Tourism from 25-26 November 2015 in New Delhi.
- Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction-Experience Sharing of Member States in Disaster Management on 27 November 2015 in New Delhi.
- Committee Meeting to complete the winding-up proceedings of SAARC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi from 19-20 November 2015 in New Delhi.
- Workshop on Information and Communication Technology and Post-Examination Aspects of DATA Management for SAARC Member States from 1-2 November 2015 in New Delhi.

Apart from the above, India organised the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx) from 23-26 November 2015 at New Delhi to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss disaster response plans and capabilities of SAARC countries. It was a practical, realistic

exercise aiming to address the diverse strategic issues of a multinational disaster relief operation and coordination.

India’s proactive stance in SAARC since 2004 as part of its new approach to the countries in the neighborhood has been a transformative factor in ensuring the gradual and irreversible transition of the organisation from its declaratory to implementation mode. India’s commitment to shoulder more than its assessed responsibilities, in an asymmetric and non-reciprocal manner, has resonated well within the region.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

During the period April- December 2015, India focussed on themes of common importance to all Member States of BIMSTEC, namely Transportation & Communication, Trade and Investment, Technology, Energy, Agriculture, Public Health, Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and Climate Change.

In the year under review, the Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-group on Combating the Financing of the Terrorism (SG-CFT) was held during 27-28 May 2015 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The Meeting decided on obtaining feedback for publication in the SG-CFT Webpage to be shared between Member States concerned through a secure channel. Further, it was decided during the Meeting that till such time the BIMSTEC Secretariat takes over, the management of BIMSTEC SG-CFT Webpage would remain with Anti- Money Laundering Office (AMLO), Thailand, as the Lead country. During the Meeting, India made a presentation on “Terror Finance; Cross Border Movement of Funds” elaborating the funding pattern of terrorism, sources and channels of terror finance, India’s own experience and particular case studies, impact of terror finance, and the important role played by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in preventing terror finance. The Meeting agreed that human resources development and capacity building is an essential element for combating the financing of terrorism. With this view, the BIMSTEC Secretariat shall be developing an annual calendar of capacity building programmes based on the requirements and offers of the Member States.

A BIMSTEC Network of National Centres of Coordination in Traditional Medicine has been established, of which

Thailand has hosted three Meetings, the latest was held on 20-22 July 2015 in Nonthaburi, Thailand, wherein the terms of reference for establishing a 'BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine', under 'BIMSTEC Network of National Centres of Coordination in Traditional Medicine' was deliberated on for submission to the next SOM.

The 3rd BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of BIMSTEC- Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) was held in Colombo during 25-26 August 2015. The two-day Meeting basically covered the agenda which included finalising the draft text of the Memorandum of Association (MoA) on the establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility in Colombo. The draft text had some modification as made by India and Myanmar and the Secretariat of BIMSTEC has circulated the revised draft text among Member States for their concurrence to the comments/observations made by India and Myanmar.

The 20th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) was held in Khon Khaen, Thailand from 7-9 September 2015. The TNC deliberated on Agreement on Trade-in-Goods. The following were also deliberated upon in parallel in the respective working groups: Rules of Origin; Trade-in-Services; Investment; and Legal Experts. At the 20th TNC Meeting, it was decided that India will circulate a draft text for a Protocol on Customs cooperation for consideration by the BIMSTEC Member States as also update on Product Specific Rules (PSR) as India had conveyed in the Meeting that the 147 tariff lines under the PSR was agreed in 2011 and that there is a necessity to revisit the PSR once again in

view of the recent developments in trade sector and India shall be communicating its comments on the PSR during the next (21st) Meeting of BIMSTEC TNC to be held in near future.

The 144th Meeting of BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG) at Ambassadorial- level was held on 14 September 2015 in which our High Commissioner in Dhaka had participated and India had presented its update on various areas of cooperation before the BWG. Similarly, the 145th BWG was shortly held thereafter on 20 October 2015, in which updates were discussed.

Progress has also been achieved in finalising the text of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and the same is ready for signature in the next BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. During the 7th Meeting of BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime held from 4-5 August 2015 in Bangkok, India, as the lead shepherd in the area of Legal and Law Enforcement Issues had committed to hold the Sub-group Meeting to deliberate on Convention on Transfer of Sentenced Persons and on Extradition, accordingly the 6th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub- group on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues was held on 17-18 December 2015 in New Delhi wherein deliberation took place regarding the draft text of the BIMSTEC Convention on Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Further, deliberation shall take place in the next Sub-group Meeting scheduled to be held sometime in 2016.



Development Partnership Administration (DPA)

Development partnership occupies a paramount place in India's foreign policy. This development cooperation is based on two main pillars, first, Development cooperation incorporating the idea of partnership, i.e. working for mutual benefit and secondly, development cooperation based on priorities determined by the partner.

In recent years, the development cooperation programmes have expanded voluminosely, both in geographical spread and sectoral coverage. DPA aims to streamline and improve delivery of the various elements of India's development assistance viz. the capacity building programmes under ITEC and other schemes, Lines of Credit and Grant assistance projects. The DPA functions in close coordination with the concerned Territorial Divisions of the Ministry, who continue to be the main interlocutors with partner countries on the prioritization and selection of projects for coverage under India's development assistance initiatives.

DPA comprises three Divisions. DPA-I looks after the Lines of Credit projects under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Under the Allocation of Business Rules, Bangladesh, Nepal & Bhutan is within the purview of Ministry of External Affairs. DPA-I also handles the LoC modalities relating to these countries. DPA-II deals with the training of defence personnel and provides Civilian training under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and Pacific. In addition, special courses in a variety of disciplines are also conducted based on the request from partner countries. Besides this, it also provides Humanitarian Assistance. DPA-III deals with project implementation in Afghanistan, Nepal, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka with a view to ensuring speedy and efficient implementation of assistance

programmes, in close coordination with Government of India Ministries/Departments and other agencies.

DPA is progressively developing the expertise required to handle projects in varied sectors, the objective being to facilitate effective implementation of projects through the various stages of project appraisal, execution and monitoring.

Lines of Credit (LoCs)

Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms have emerged as one of the main instruments of India's development assistance to least developed and developing countries in recent years. Lines of Credit continue to be an important component of India's development cooperation policy in Africa, Asia and Latin America primarily aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation. The LoCs enable borrowing countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building as per their developmental priorities.

The Guidelines on Lines of Credit extended by Government of India to various countries under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) have been revised. These shall be applicable from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The revised guidelines offer more liberal terms of credit to developing countries and prescribe strict monitoring procedure to ensure effective utilisation of the LoCs.

Over the years, 226 LoCs aggregating US\$ 16,898.23 million have been allocated, of which US\$ 8,705.21 million was allocated for African countries and US\$ 8,193.02 million was sanctioned to non-African countries. During the period 01 April - 30 November 2015, 4 LoCs amounting to US\$ 2279 million were sanctioned. Of this, the allocation to Africa during this period is US\$ 279 million and allocation to other countries is US\$ 2000 million. During the same period, seven LOC Agreements of value aggregating US\$ 564.99 million were signed.

A Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion was extended to Bangladesh

in 2010. Of this, US\$ 200 million was converted into a grant in 2012 for utilisation in projects prioritised by Government of Bangladesh. The balance US\$ 800 million has further been enhanced to US\$ 862 million to cover 15 projects, including supplies as well as infrastructural projects. Supply Projects have already been completed. The infrastructural projects covering construction of Rail bridges, new rail lines etc. are in various stages of implementation. In June 2015, Government of India announced a second Line of Credit of US\$ 2 billion to Bangladesh for financing various social and infrastructure development projects such as power, railways, road transportation, information and communication technology, shipping, health and technical education sectors. The progress of the LoC projects is monitored regularly through periodic review meetings with the Government of Bangladesh and other stakeholders.

An LoC of US\$ 1000 million has been extended to Nepal for hydropower, irrigation and various other infrastructural development projects. Out of this, an allocation of US\$ 450 million and an additional LoC of US\$ 300 million, aggregating to US\$ 750 million has been committed to Nepal for post earthquake reconstruction work. This is in

addition to the two LoCs of US\$ 100 million and US\$ 250 million extended in 2007 & 2010 respectively. The LoC of US\$ 100 million has been fully utilised for road projects, rural electrification projects, power transmission and hydro power projects. The US\$ 250 million LoC covering power transmission and road projects is progressing well. 19 Road projects totaling US\$ 69.37 million have been approved for coverage under this LoC.

As part of the monitoring of ongoing LoC projects, Review Missions visited Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Progress Reports were also received from Indian Missions and Exim Bank, the Lending Bank for Government of India LoCs.

Development Projects with grant assistance in neighbouring countries

The development projects being undertaken with grant assistance in neighbouring countries are in various stages of implementation. Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the Afghan Parliament Building Project on 25 December 2015.

The reconstruction of Salma Dam in Herat province has registered significant progress. The 220/20 KV substation at Doshi has been commissioned in July 2015 and a similar sub-



Inauguration of the new Afghan Parliament Building in Kabul by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister alongwith H.E. Mohammad Asbraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 25 December 2015. The Parliament Building was constructed under India-Afghanistan Development Cooperation.

station at Charikar has been inaugurated on 31 December 2015. The supply and commissioning of most of medical equipment to the Indira Gandhi International Children's Hospital in Kabul has been completed and the balance equipment shall follow. The restoration of Stor Palace at Kabul is proceeding in a meticulous manner so as to bring the Palace to its original splendour.

The students of the Afghanistan National Agricultural Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) at Kandahar, an India-Afghanistan development cooperation initiative, were trained at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi and classes are also being conducted through tele-teaching medium; support is also being extended to ANASTU through supply of books for library and equipment for laboratories. After imparting training to Afghan officials in various disciplines of mining at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishing an Afghan Institute of Mining is under preparation. Similarly DPR for supply of buses and development of associated depot infrastructure and other requirements is under preparation.

Another area of focus of India's development partnership with Afghanistan is the education sector. Cooperation in this area includes 1000 university scholarships annually for Afghan nationals implemented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and 614 Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) scholarships. The Small Development Projects (SDPs) focusing on community-based projects in all provinces, including vulnerable border areas in agriculture, rural development, education, health and vocational training that have direct and visible impact on community life with local ownership and management are being pursued.

A number of cross-border projects aimed at enhancing connectivity to raise economic growth and accelerate development are at various stages of planning and implementation in Myanmar. These include the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project (which will provide connectivity between ports on India's eastern sea board and Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and thereafter to the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram); the Trilateral Highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand wherein India is undertaking construction of bridges in the Tamu - Kyigone - Kalewa section and upgradation of 120 km road in the Kalewa-Yargi section. Other road project under implementation includes the Rih-Tedim road. With the aim of enhancing agricultural yield and quality, an Advanced

Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) and a Rice Bio-Park are being set up in Nay Pyi Taw. The establishment of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), a world class IT institute in Mandalay, is progressing well and the Post Graduate Diploma in Software Development (PGDSD) and the Bachelor of Technology (B Tech) courses have been commenced in 2015. The supply and commissioning of state-of-the-art medical equipment to Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital is being undertaken. Projects such as supply of desktop computers to Land Records Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar, setting up of Language Labs and an e-resource centre in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw were completed this year.

The construction projects of Integrated Check Posts on the India-Nepal border and cross-border railway links are at various stages of implementation to enhance connectivity between India and Nepal. The supply of balance medical equipment to the 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2014 is underway.

India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is based on a consultative approach, factoring in the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka. The multi-sectoral partnership includes building the Jaffna Cultural Centre and restoration of Thiruketheeswaram temple. The construction of a 150-bed Hospital at Dickoya was completed in 2014.

India is assisting in the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka through a major housing project involving construction of 50,000 houses. An MoU was signed between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka on 17 January 2012 affirming India's commitment to the project. The Pilot project of construction of 1,000 houses was completed in 2012. The construction and repair of 45,000 houses under an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces is currently in progress. 10,250 houses were completed by end 2013, another 16,000 houses were completed by end 2014 and the remaining are underway. The owner driven model has the direct involvement of beneficiaries in the construction of their houses; the funds are released into their bank accounts in four instalments linked to the completion of the defined four stages of construction. The pace of the project is proceeding well as per schedule.

The construction of 4,000 houses in the Central/Uva provinces for the Indian Origin Tamils employed in the plantation sector has also commenced following the

completion of the process of identification of land by the Sri Lankan Government. The allocation of land for 1,134 houses has been completed and construction of these houses is being taken up under an Owner driven model. The construction of the remaining 2,866 houses will be taken up on allocation of land for these houses by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Development projects in Maldives, namely, renovation of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Composite Training Centre, Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) and MOD Building at Male are at different stages of consideration/implementation.

Development Projects in Africa

India's partnership with Africa has assumed the character of a dynamic and strategic partnership of cooperation, sharing of development experiences and is geared towards addressing the priorities and needs of the African countries. The engagement with African countries in capacity building through development partnerships and contributing to their economic development has intensified in the last decade. Setting up of Centers on Geo-Informatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD) in Madagascar and Algeria, and establishment of Rural Technology Parks in Zimbabwe, Cote d' Ivoire and Malawi as part of bilateral cooperation under IAFS-II are under implementation.

During the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III), US\$ 10 billion in Lines of Credit for a host of development projects over the next five years and a grant assistance of \$600 million was offered. This grant includes an India-Africa Development Fund of \$100 million and an India-Africa Health Fund of \$10 million. It will also include 50,000 scholarships in India over the next five years and support the expansion of the Pan Africa E-Network and institutions of skilling, training and learning across Africa.

The significant support extended to countries in Africa under Grant assistance includes supply of 34 tractors and two lots of medicines to Malawi, Information technology equipment for Hospitals to Namibia, and a pilot research project on Tomato production & processing in Ghana for US\$ 2.088 million. A CT Scan Machine has been supplied and successfully installed at the Black Lion Hospital, Ethiopia alongwith completion of training of the equipment to the Hospital staff. In addition, grant assistance was also extended for supply of ambulances, vehicles to several other countries in Africa.

Other Development Projects

India is extending its assistance and experience through Archaeological Survey of India for restoration and conservation of ancient cultural heritage monuments in the South East Asian region at Ta Prohm in Cambodia, Myson in Vietnam and Wat Phou in Lao PDR. India's strength in the field of Information Technology is being shared with the partner countries in the form of establishment of various Centres of Excellence in Information Technology, imparting training to the partner countries, including Peru, Panama, Costa Rica and Commonwealth of Dominica. During the year, projects in various other fields were also implemented, like, a high visibility Solar Powered Traffic Signalling System in a prestigious area of the Guatemala city and a Telemedicine network connecting remote hospitals in Armenia.

Capacity Building through Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC, SCAAP and Technical Cooperation Scheme under Colombo Plan)

Capacity building continued to be an important strand of India's development partnership programme in 2015-16. The Indian technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) and the Technical Cooperation Scheme under Colombo Plan (TCS) continued to strengthen in scope and outreach, with the inclusion of new partner institutions and courses in emerging areas.

During 2015-16, over 8360 civilian training slots were offered under ITEC/SCAAP Programme to 161 partner (List of partner countries is given in **Appendix-IV**) for various short-term and medium-term courses in institutions spread all over India. The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India with 47 institutions on the panel, conducted around 284 courses for working professionals in a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines such as IT and telecommunication, finance & accounts, audit, banking, education, planning & administration, parliamentary affairs, crime records, textiles, rural development, renewable energy, tool design, SMEs and entrepreneurship development etc. (List of institutions offering civilian training courses under ITEC and SCAAP programmes of the Ministry of External Affairs is at **Appendix-V**).

As in earlier years, the programme drew large numbers of participants to the training courses conducted by institutions

in India, both in Government and in the private sectors, under the civilian and defence training programmes. The new fully online user-friendly ITEC web portal is in operation from the year 2015-16 to facilitate the needs of ITEC/SCAAP participants, Missions/Posts and the participating institutions, in terms of making it easier for them to access details relating to empanelled institutions and approved courses etc. ITEC has acquired a strong brand name in the field of development partnership. Engagement with Alumni networks has continued to strengthen through the web portal and other social networking tools, and through the annual 'ITEC Day' functions organized at Headquarters, Missions abroad and at the ITEC Institutions.

500 slots were also offered under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and Pacific. The areas of training include human resource development, audit and accounts, commerce, information technology, textiles, financial management, insurance etc. Ten officers from Bhutan are trained in premier training institutions of India i.e. NADT-Nagpur, LBSNAA-Mussoorie, IGNFA-Dehradun, NAAA-Shimla and NACEN-Faridabad under this plan every year. In addition, India has been deputing lecturers to various colleges affiliated to the Royal University of Bhutan and also providing Indian faculty on secondment to Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), Manila. Grant in Aid of US\$ 17,400/- for the period 2015-16 has been given to Colombo Plan Council, Sri Lanka.

Defence Training Programme

During 2015-16, 2058 Defence training slots were allocated to partner countries. The courses were both of general and specialized nature which included security and strategic studies, defence management, electronics, mechanical engineering, marine hydrography, counter insurgency and jungle warfare, and also foundation courses for young officers in the three services. Courses at premier institutions like the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi and the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington continued to be immensely popular and also attracted officers from developed countries on self-financing basis.

Special Courses

In addition to the regular courses, special courses are also conducted to meet the specific requirements of some of the ITEC/SCAAP partner countries. The following special courses in the areas mentioned below have been conducted/

scheduled during the financial year 2015-16 :

- Special Teacher's Training Program for 80 Bangladeshi Teachers at National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai.
- Mid-Career Training Program for Bangladeshi Civil Servants at National Centre for Good Governance, Mussoorie.
- Special Training Program for Deputy Commissioners of Bangladesh at National Centre for Good Governance, Mussoorie.
- Special course for Bhutanese Audit Officers at International Center for Information Systems and Audit (ICISA), Noida.
- Special course for Mongol Custom Officers at National Academy of Central Excise & Narcotics (NACEN), Faridabad.
- Special Training Course for Colombian Teachers at English & Foreign Language University (EFLU), Hyderabad.
- Special Training Course on Election Management at India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management, New Delhi.
- Special Training on Nanofabrication Technologies at Centre for Nano Science & Engineering (CeNSE), IISc, Bengaluru.
- Special Training programmes for Mongolian Teachers in English language (Basic and Intermediate level) at National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh.

Deputation of Experts

Deputation of experts under ITEC programme has served as a very important tool for sharing Indian expertise with the developing world. During 2015-16, 37 experts in various fields were on deputation to partner countries in areas of Forensic Science, Ayurveda, Rice Production and as Advisers to Governments and as State Counsels. Defence training teams have also been deputed to partner countries.

Disaster Relief

Humanitarian assistance was rendered by India to countries affected by natural disasters. Cash assistance was provided to Syria, Philippines, Jordan and Lebanon. In addition, medicines were supplied to Yemen and aerial ropeways were supplied to Nepalese Army. ■ ■

Investment and Technology Promotion

The Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division as part of its efforts to give a focussed direction to the economic diplomacy dimension of the country's foreign policy undertook a number of initiatives during financial year 2015-16. Our efforts were to ensure greater coordination between the MEA, central government ministries / departments, State governments, Business chambers and our Missions / Posts abroad with the objective of expanding the reach of India's exports, open new business opportunities for Indian enterprises overseas, enhance India's economic engagement in the immediate neighbourhood, attract greater investments, promote tourism and culture, and make India an attractive business destination.

Through its active outreach and financial support to Indian Missions / Posts, business chambers, and think tank institutions, and close interaction with state industrial development corporations, Indian business houses, and foreign diplomatic missions in India, the ITP Division was able to take forward the developmental agenda of the government and ensure that the economic reform agenda of the government and the objectives of the nation's foreign policy were communicated in a sustained and coordinated manner to ensure the best possible economic outcomes for the country.

To increase the effectiveness and reach of the ITP Division, the Division has been reorganised in the form of a matrix structure. Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) have been created for facilitating interaction between the Foreign Investors and the Indian Stakeholders. The SPOCs have been assigned countries, Indian States and independent sectors for easy facilitation. The matrix structure is already effectively dealing with issues of co-ordination between foreign investors and the government agencies both at the Central and the State level.

To enable the *187* Missions / Posts to intensify their economic engagement with the countries of their accreditation, ITP Division under its "**Market Expansion Activities**" budget has extended funding to the tune of *Rs. 4.5 crores*. The funding has been utilized to help promote Indian exports through catalogue shows and buyer-seller meets, engage consultants to prepare market studies, organize business seminars to attract foreign investments, and undertake advocacy work to promote interests of Indian enterprises seeking business opportunities overseas. In addition, the Division has also processed proposals to the tune of *Rs. 1.65 crores* to support specific trade and investment promotion activities of Indian Missions / Posts as well as other economic activities of apex business chambers in India.

Financial Services

On the *Financial Services front*, ITP Division through its membership in the Intra Departmental Committee (IDC) of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance has contributed significantly to decisions relating to honouring of bank guarantees given by Indian enterprises executing projects in challenging countries such as Libya; the opening of a wholly owned subsidiary of ABN AMRO Bank N.V. of Netherlands; and the opening of three additional branches of JP Morgan Chase Bank in India. ITP also processed *342* cases (till December 2015) of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and issued clearances on *238* of those cases, while returning the remaining with specific comments / queries. ITP and the Department of Economic Affairs are also coordinating efforts to attract greater investments from Pension and Sovereign Wealth Funds.

Investment Facilitation

On the *Investment front*, ITP Division through its membership in the Board of Invest India closely coordinated its activities with the Department of Industrial Policy and

Promotion. The global launch of the “*Make-in-India*” initiative on 25 September 2014 was facilitated by ITP Division through Indian Missions / Posts. ITP Division is also offering handholding services to visiting investors and facilitating their interaction with ministries at the centre and in the States. Over 50 foreign investment delegations from Canada (*Power, Pension Funds, Bond Market*), China (*Real Estate, Solar, Telecom, Power, Resources*), Germany (*Manufacturing – Electrical*), Korea (*Urban development, Railways, Aviation*), Taiwan (*Manufacturing – Electronics*), Japan (*Infrastructure*), Russia (*Telecom, Banking, Smart Cities*) and the U.S.A (*Banking, Agriculture, Bio-technology*) have been assisted during the period April 2015 to January 2016. Effective follow-up work by ITP Division has seen Xiaomi invest in a mobile phone manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh; commitment by Wanda Group to invest in a US\$ 10 billion industrial city in Haryana; and movement on several other projects. ITP Division worked closely with the Ministry of Shipping in organizing a curtain raiser to the “*Maritime India Summit – 2016*” to the diplomatic community in Delhi. ITP Division also closely worked with DIPP in organizing the “*Make in India Week*” in Mumbai from 13 to 18 February 2016. ITP Division also worked with the Department of Disinvestments in organizing road shows in Canada and the USA aimed at potential disinvestments in PSUs such as Coal India Ltd., NTPC, CONCOR, and BEL.

Economic and Trade Promotion

On the *Economic and Trade promotion front*, ITP Division along with the Department of Commerce and Industry worked on new strategies for promoting Indian exports to countries in South America and the Caribbean. ITP Division is also engaged with the Commerce Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India in exploring a payment mechanism that would enable Indian exporters to Venezuela to recover payments through purchases of crude oil. In order to offset the falling prices of domestic sugar as a result of the growing surpluses, ITP Division through close coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Public Distribution and Indian Missions / Posts abroad was able to identify new markets for sugar exports. The Division along with the Department of Commerce worked towards identifying markets for importing pulses into the country. ITP Division along with the Department of Revenue, Department of Economic Affairs, and Department of Commerce has been drafted as a member to the Working Group constituted

by the Chief Economic Advisor to study the effectiveness of all the Free Trading Agreements concluded by India over the last several years. The Division has also made proactive interventions to resolve trade disputes between foreign entities and Indian businesses by breaking long-standing stalemates and facilitating win-win outcomes. Timely intervention by ITP Division resulted in Mexico’s Cinopolis securing long-pending approvals for commencement of its multiplex operations in Kerala, as well helping our Post in Herat in resolving the issue of Afghanistan exports of saffron to India through close coordination with Indian Customs.

Multilateral - Finance

On the *multilateral front*, ITP Division along with the Department of Economic Affairs was involved in the negotiations for setting up the *Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)*. At a Special Ministerial Meeting (SMM) held in Beijing on 29 June 2015, representatives of each of the Prospective Founding Member (PFM) countries signed and deposited the Article of Agreement. After 8 rounds of meetings of Chief Negotiators of the AIIB, Mr. Jin Liqun has been selected as the President-designate of AIIB, which will be headquartered in Beijing. The Articles of Association of the AIIB was approved by the Cabinet in November 2015 and the instrument of ratification after securing the assent of the President was filed with the AIIB Secretariat on 15 January 2016. The first meeting of the Board of Governors of the AIIB took place in Beijing on 16 January 2016. India has been elected to the Board of Directors of the AIIB. As the second largest shareholder of the AIIB, India will subscribe to a total of 83,673 shares at a subscription price of US\$ 8.36 billion. India is in the process of nominating candidates for several Vice Presidential positions in the Bank.

Industry Outreach

On the Industry front, ITP Division financed and co-organized the following events:

- 7-9 May 2015: “Indo-African Women Entrepreneurship” Summit with the National Women’s Federation in New Delhi.
- 1 May 2015: “India: The Future Global Healthcare Hub” Summit in New Delhi.
- 23-24 September 2015: “Global Investors India Forum (GIIF)” Summit in New Delhi.

- 5-6 October, 2016: “2nd India-Central Europe Business Forum (ICEBF)” with FICCI in Bengaluru.
- 20 November 2015: “International Technology Summit” with ASSOCHAM in New Delhi.
- 23-24 November 2015: “11th Kolkata-2-Kunming Forum” with the Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD) in Kolkata.
- 27-29 November 2015: On the side-lines of the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III), ITP Division coordinated the “Focus Africa” Seminar with EXIM Bank on 27 November 2015, the “Business Exhibition” from 27-29 November 2015, and the “India Africa Business Forum” with CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI on 28 November 2015.
- 16 December 2015: “Start Up India: 2015” - in New Delhi.
- 9-10 February 2016: “8th Global Food Processing Summit”, in New Delhi.

Civil Aviation

On the *Civil Aviation front*, ITP Division worked closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation on bilateral air services negotiations. *Air Services Agreements (ASAs)* were signed with *Mongolia* (17 May 2015), *New Zealand* (26 May 2015), *Seychelles* (26 August 2015), *Germany* (5 October 2015), *Barbados* (6 October 2015), and *Republic of Korea* (15 October 2015). The successful signing of the MOU with Republic of Korea after several failed attempts pointed to the desire on both sides to boost economic and people-to-people cooperation. Capacity entitlement for both the countries has been increased from existing six services per week to 19 services per week. While South Korean carriers can fly to Bengaluru and Chennai as additional points of call, Indian carriers will be able to fly to Vancouver and Seattle in addition to Tokyo and Los Angeles via South Korea. At the International Civil Aviation Negotiations (ICAN) in Turkey from 19-21 October 2015, *MOUs* were signed with eight countries - *Finland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Oman and Ethiopia*; “*Agreed Minutes*” with *Serbia, Greece, European Commission*; and “*Record of Discussions*” with *Brunei Darussalam, and Qatar* respectively.

Ease of Doing Business

On the *Ease of Doing Business front*, ITP Division had conducted an elaborate survey among India’s top investing nations - USA, Singapore, Japan, UK, Germany, China, South Korea, and Netherlands. Information was obtained through interviews, presentations and written submissions sent by foreign business chambers including USIBC, AMCHAM, KOTRA, K Aidanren, JETRO, FINPRO and Economic & Commercial Officers of foreign Embassies / High Commissions located in New Delhi. Findings of the survey are currently being collated for necessary action by various ministries / departments. In close consultation with Department of Economic Affairs, effective steps were taken to streamline the processing of applications and issuing clearances for setting up Branch Offices (BO) / Liaison Offices (LO) / Project Offices (PO). Till December 2015, ITP Division processed and cleared total of **31** BO / LO / PO cases. Close coordination with Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has resulted in ITP Division help secure timely approvals for the Chinese production teams of “*Lost in India*” and “*Da Tang Xuanzang*” secure approvals to film in India.

Knowledge Support to Indian Missions

ITP Division as part of its efforts to provide knowledge support to Indian Missions/Posts has prepared presentations and reports on all of GOIs flagship programs for effective dissemination worldwide. The Division continued to despatch analytical reports on the state of the Indian economy to Indian Missions abroad and also supports the outreach activities of Indian Missions / Posts by providing weekly and monthly economic newsletters. ITP is in the process of revamping its website - *indiainbusiness.nic.in* to better assist our Missions / Posts as a one-stop source of business-related information on India. The Division also works with a number of national and international consultancy firms to bring out surveys on the business climate in India, as well as sector-specific publications. In November 2015, ITP Division along with DIPP worked with Ernst & Young to bring out the *India Attractiveness Survey 2015*, which ranked India as the No. 1 investment destination in the world. The publication has since been launched at road shows conducted in association with Indian Consulates in New York, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Tokyo.



Energy Security Division was established in 2009 in the Ministry of External Affairs and coordinates India's energy diplomacy and serves as the nodal point for Government's international energy related engagements in various multilateral and bilateral fora. It supports international engagements of Energy and Resources Ministries [Petroleum & Natural Gas, Power, New & Renewable Energy, Coal and Mines] through diplomatic interventions. It handles India's interaction with energy related international organizations such as International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Partnership for Energy Efficiency and Cooperation (IPEEC), International Energy Forum (IEF), International Energy Agency (IEA), Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) etc. and on energy related matters in G-20, East Asia Summit, UN, BRICS, IBSA etc. It is envisaged that it shall handle matters of Food Security, in coordination with Ministries such as Agriculture and Fertilizers.

Participations in meetings with International Organizations

Energy Security Division actively participated in the following meetings/events:

- The Hannover Messe Fair 2015 held during 14-16 April 2015. The fair showcased India as an investment destination in the Renewable Energy sector.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy attended the Advisory Board meeting of the 2nd UN Sustainable Energy for All Forum held in New York during 19-20 May 2015.
- The 11th Policy Committee (PoCo) meeting of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) held in Merida, Mexico during 24-26 May 2015. The meeting reviewed the G-20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan carried out by various Task Groups and strengthening of IPEEC activities and its impact. 13th

Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency (IPEEC) was held in Paris during 16-18 September 2015. ExCo-13 deliberated on G 20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan and other Task Group presentations.

- Meetings of the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group under Turkish presidency held in Turkey during 2015. The meetings focused on issues of Energy Access, Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Market Transparency and Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies.
- The 6th Clean Energy Ministerial meeting held during 26-28 May 2015 in Merida, Mexico. It was agreed to launch an enhanced, second phase of work under CEM, referred to as "CEM 2.0". Ministers created a new CEM Steering Committee that will provide leadership and strategic guidance year-round to prioritize efforts in areas of greatest potential impact. India is one of the inaugural member of the Steering Committee.
- The 6th OPEC International Seminar held in Vienna, Austria during 3-4 June 2015. On the side lines of this meeting, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Petroleum & Natural Gas had separate bilateral meetings with Secretary General, OPEC and his counterparts and discussed areas of cooperation in the oil & gas sector. A decision was taken to initiate high level dialogue with OPEC.
- The 9th & 10th meeting of the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) held in Abu-Dhabi during 10-11 June 2015 & 23-24 November 2015 respectively.
- G 20 Energy Ministers Meeting and Conference on Energy Access in Sub-Saharan Africa held on 1 & 2 October 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting focused on inclusive energy collaboration and the agreed G 20 Energy Principles.

- IEA Ministerial meeting held in Paris during 17-18 November 2015.
- 6th session of International Renewable Energy Agency General Assembly held in Abu Dhabi, UAE during 15-19 January 2016. Energy Security Division participated in the Indian delegation.
- The first meeting of G 20 Energy Sustainability Working Group under China's Presidency held on 28 January 2016 in China.

Bilateral Energy Meetings

- Indian delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State (Petroleum & Natural Gas) visited Maputo, Mozambique during 9-10 April 2015 for discussion on further cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons and coal.
- An Indian delegation visited Tehran, Iran during 18-19 April 2015 and on 28 July 2015 for bilateral discussions with Iran on various issues related to trade and investment in oil and gas sector.
- 4th International LNG Producer-Consumer conference was held in Tokyo on 16 September 2015. This conference provided an important platform for discussion on current challenges surrounding LNG production and consumption.
- Indo - Japan Energy Dialogue held at Tokyo during 11-14 January 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy.

TAPI Gas Pipeline Project

- 22nd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the project was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 6 August 2015. The Indian delegation was led by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Petroleum & Natural gas.
- 23rd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) and 30th Technical working Group (TWG) meeting of the project were held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan during 23-24 October 2015. Highlights of the meeting included announcements of the respective percentage of shares in TAPI Ltd. by the Parties and signing of the Shareholders Agreement for the project.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

International Solar Alliance (ISA), a platform for mutual cooperation among 121 solar resource rich countries, was launched in Paris on 30 November 2015 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon'ble President of France on the sidelines of COP 21. The launch ceremony was attended by 31 Heads of State/ Government and 35 other high level dignitaries, UN Secretary General and over 600 participants from across industry, NGOs and media. MEA strongly supported Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) in successful launch of the Alliance. Necessary assistance was extended to MNRE in organising information sharing sessions with representatives of resident diplomatic missions of prospective member countries and core group members; by intensely following up through our Missions in over 100 countries, for confirmation for joining ISA and in organising the ISA launch event as well as the inaugural meeting of International Steering Committee of ISA on 1 December 2015. MEA will continue to contribute to the work related to the initiative.

The 2nd meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held at Abu Dhabi, UAE on 18 January 2016.

Other meetings

- Informal Working Group (IWG) meeting was organized by Energy Security Division on 15 July 2015 on the theme "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency" which was attended by senior officers from Ministries of New & Renewable Energy and Power as well as from Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and PSUs namely NTPC, PGCIL, EESL. The Group discussed the important developments in these areas and India's position and response in the related international fora.
- Meeting on Emergency Rescue Plans in Oil Sector Investment held in Venezuela and Colombia was held in National Security Council Secretariat, New Delhi on 16 June 2015. During the meeting, various challenges faced by ONGC in these countries, both in terms of property and personnel were discussed.



Realizing the role of the states as the driver of India's growth, the Ministry of External Affairs, under the policy vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister has created the States Division in October 2014. The Division fosters the principle of cooperative federalism and aims to facilitate and deepen the external linkages of the States/ Union Territories. The areas of cooperation are broad ranging and includes economic cooperation, academic linkages, investment, tourism, technology transfers, exports, culture, people to people contact and community driven issues. The Division is in the process of evolving new institutional structures for facilitation, focus and familiarization of the states with the MEA and our Embassies and Consulates abroad. One of the major achievements of the Division had been the launch of the India China State/ Provincial Leaders Forum during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to China in May, 2015. New initiatives like "Meet the States" to familiarize resident diplomats with the State Governments, and outreach of senior Indian Diplomats to the States have strengthened the interactive process. The Division has successfully coordinated with the state governments and the missions abroad for the evacuation of Indian Nationals during crises in various countries like Yemen evacuation through Operation Rahat, and providing Relief after Nepal Earth Quake through Operation Maitri. The States division is also the nodal division for the new initiative of "States Specialization" by all the Indian Foreign Service Officers. Under this initiative, the officers have to specialise in two states. The States Division by being the interface between the States of the Union of India and the external outreach of Indian Diplomacy gives impetus to the paradigm of Diplomacy for Development.

The activities pertaining to the States Division in the year 2015 are as under:

1. Sister City and Sister Province Agreements

- a. During the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to China on 15 May 2015, the States Division coordinated the finalization and signing of a sister state agreement between **Karnataka – Sichuan**, and also the signing of three sister-city agreements, namely -
 - **Chennai – Chongqing,**
 - **Hyderabad – Qingdao,**
 - **Aurangabad – Dunhuang**
- b. During the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Kyoto, Japan in 2015, the States Division facilitated the signing of **Kyoto-Varanasi Partner City Agreement**. The text of the agreement was signed in the presence of the leaders of both the nations by Mayor of Kyoto Shri Daisaku Kadokawa and Ambassador of India to Japan Smt. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa. It aims to promote cooperation in the fields of water management, sewage management, waste management and urban transportation by "drawing upon Japanese expertise and technologies."
- c. The States Division represented the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at consultative meetings between different Ministries of Govt. of India, Departments of the State Govt. Of Uttar Pradesh and city officials of Varanasi, held in Varanasi from 7 - 9 July 2015 and 16-17 November 2015, to **develop Varanasi into a smart heritage city.**

2. State and Provincial Leaders Forum

During the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of

India to China on 15 May 2015, the States Division played a significant role in the coordination of the successful launch of **India's first ever State/Provincial Leaders' Forum, with China, in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing.** The Forum aims to deepen the sub-national cooperation between the two countries. The division also facilitated the participation of Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Mayors of Chennai and Ahmedabad and state officials from many Indian States also attended the Leaders Forum.

3. Humanitarian Operations

- a. In the hour of crisis, the States Division responded with tenacity. It successfully rose to its role in the rescue and relief operations undertaken by the Government of India in **Yemen (Operation Rahat) and Nepal (Operation Maitri).** It acted as the bridge between the Diplomatic Missions there and the resident commissioners here in the evacuation of the Indians from Yemen and Nepal and sending them to their respective states safe and secured. It was involved in the bringing back of dead bodies of the victims from the respective countries and handing them over to their families.
- b. The States Division liaised with the Government of **Uttarakhand** and our Mission in **Kuala Lumpur** in facilitating the **repatriation of 13 workers** who were detained by their employer in Malaysia, in August 2015.
- c. The States Division coordinated the release of **6 fishermen** belonging to Andhra Pradesh **from Bangladesh on 13 August 2015** and their return to their home town.
- d. Representative from the States Division visited Bhopal on 27 November 2015 to look into the issue related to **Mohammad Ramzan** to facilitate **his return to his stated home country, Pakistan.** Mohammad Ramzan is a boy, said to be belonging to Karachi, Pakistan. He has been for the past two years in Umeed, the shelter home being run by the NGO, Aarambh, Bhopal.
- e. The States Division worked in close coordination with PAI Division in the **return of Ms. Geeta,** an Indian national who had lost her way and entered Pakistan years earlier, from Pakistan and hosted the members of

Edhi Foundation, Karachi, the NGO in Pakistan that was taking care of the girl.

4. Facilitating the foreign visits of dignitaries from State Governments

- a. The States Division facilitated the visit of **Shri. Sukhbir Singh Badal, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab to Poland and Hungary in July 2015.** The thrust areas were attracting foreign investment especially in the area of agriculture and processed food. Poland was announced as the partner country for the Progressive Punjab Investment Summit. It was held on 28-29 October 2015 at Mohali, Punjab. The Division facilitated the visit of a 6-member delegation, headed by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab to Republic of Korea, from 28 August -3 September 2015. The Division had also facilitated the visit of Shri Madan Mohan Mittal, Hon'ble Minister of Industries & Commerce of Punjab to China from 22-30 August 2015.
- b. The States Division facilitated the visit of **a 7-member delegation from the State of Haryana to USA & Canada from 16 - 25 August 2015.** It was headed by the Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar and consisted of Minister of Industries & Commerce, Chief Secretary and senior officials of the state government. This visit was undertaken to project Haryana as a destination for investment. The States Division also facilitated the visit of the Haryana Chief Minister to Singapore from 17-25 January 2016.
- c. The States Division facilitated the visit of **Smt. Mamata Bannerjee, Hon'ble CM of West Bengal to United Kingdom** for promoting investment partnership and to sign Memorandum of Understandings pertaining to urban development and education in July 2015.
- d. The States Division also coordinated the visit of **a 16-member delegation from Maharashtra headed by the Hon'ble CM, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, to Japan from 8 - 13 September 2015 to attend "Maharashtra State Investment Promotion Seminar".** It was aimed at inducing investment in the state and to unveil the statue of Bharat Ratna award winner and the architect

of Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Watyarn.

- e. The States Division facilitated the **visit of a Delegation from Telangana** consisting of 16 members, to **China**, from 8-15 September 2015, to participate in the Switzerland based **World Economic Forum (WEF) summit in Dalian, China**. The delegation was headed by Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, CM of Telangana. The delegation visited New Development Bank, Shanghai and interacted with Chinese investors. In Beijing, they had a meeting with China Railways Corporation, Wanda Group (Real Estate) and representatives of some of the top Chinese companies. The Chief Minister visited Suzhou and had a meeting with the industrialists at the Suzhou Industrial Park.
- f. The States Division also facilitated the visit of Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to Japan and Korea from 29 September - 6 October 2015. The States Division also facilitated the visit of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan, to Singapore from 12-15 January 2016.
- g. The States Division also liaised with the Missions in Mexico and Peru in facilitating **the visit of a delegation from Karnataka** led by Shri R.V. Deshpande, Hon'ble Minister of Large & Medium Scale Industries and Tourism, Karnataka, from 17-23 August 2015. The visit aimed to promote 'Invest Karnataka 2015' and also discuss prospects of cooperation in industry and tourism.

5. Outreach Program of the Division

- a. The States Division had organized an **Orientation Workshop** for the **Heads of the four Branch Secretariats and 16 Regional Passport Offices** on facilitation of international linkages of states on 23 June 2015. In the workshop various aspects related to economic cooperation, diaspora-related matters etc. pertaining to the states were discussed. Special Secretary (AMS & CPV) also addressed the workshop.
- b. The Division organized a meeting between the **senior officials of Telangana** led by **Chief Secretary**

and representatives of Embassy of South Korea and Chief Director General, India & South Asia, KOTRA (Korea Trade Centre) on July 31 2015.

- c. The States Division also organized a meeting, between a **delegation from China**, comprising of nineteen members representing International Chambers of Commerce, Beijing; **representatives from Indian industry; and officials from the state of Haryana** on 10 September 2015, that aimed to attract investments in the state.
- d. The States Division organized a meeting on 24 September 2015, which was presided over by **Secretary (East)** between a ten-member delegation of **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** and **senior diplomats from various countries**. The delegation consisted of the Resident Commissioner, Principal Secretary (Education), Vice Chancellors of some Universities and headed by Shri Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development. The delegation met with many senior diplomats dealing with education related matters from **Australia, Germany, France, UK, Sweden, Finland, USA, Singapore, Japan and China**. The interaction focused on opportunities in the educational sector in AP and also for possible collaborations with reputed overseas universities in the areas of student and faculty exchange and collaborative research.
- e. The States Division under its initiative - "**Meet the States**" - organized an interaction of Shri K.T. Rama Rao, Hon'ble Minister of State for Information Technology of Telangana with diplomatic Missions on 1 October, 2015. This meeting was chaired by Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd). The purpose of the interaction was to present the opportunities for economic cooperation and investment in Telangana.
- f. On instructions of **Hon'ble External Affairs Minister**, the States Division organized a briefing session by the **Hon'ble External Affairs Minister** for **The Hon'ble Governors of North Eastern States** in coordination with ASEAN-ML Division. The meeting, attended by Shri J.P. Rajkhowa, Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Padmanabha

Balakrishna Acharya, Hon'ble Governor of Assam and Nagaland, Shri V. Shanmuganam, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur and Meghalaya, Lt. Gen. Nirbhay Sharma, Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram and Shri Shrinivas Patial, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim. It was presided over by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister on 6 October, 2015. Secretary (East) and senior officers of MEA also participated in the briefing, which covered comprehensively all aspects of "India's Act East Policy" with particular emphasis on North Eastern states and also discussed cross-border trade and cross-border connectivity projects that would connect North Eastern states with ASEAN countries i.e. Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos PDR and Vietnam.

- g. The States Division organized a meeting on 9 October 2015 between a 6-member delegation headed by Hon'ble Brian Calley, Lieutenant Governor of Michigan; representatives from the State Governments of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Punjab and representatives from Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) and Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI) to induce both inward and outward investment opportunities with focus on automotive R&D and manufacturing, materials, aerospace & defence, agribusiness and food processing, infrastructure and automotive design & technology.
- h. The States Division hosted a meeting on 21 October 2015 for the 23-member Kankeiren delegation, headed by Mr. Masayuki, MATSUSHITA, Kansai Economic Federation (Kankeiren), Japan. The purpose of the visit was to expand and investigate business opportunities in both **Japan and India** with focus on the construction of smart cities with low carbon societies and cooperation in areas such as municipal solid waste management, renewable energy, disaster management, tourism, education and sustainable development. The meeting was chaired by Joint Secretary (States).
- i. The States Division also hosted a meeting on 23 October 2015 for **senior officers of Manipur Government**

with diplomatic representatives of select countries in the context of eliciting participation in **Manipur Sangai Festival**.

- j. The States Division facilitated meetings of foreign diplomats with high level state dignitaries, with the focus on maximising participation in the **"Invest Punjab Meet"**.
- k. The States Division organised a meeting on **'Female Domestic Workers in Gulf countries'** in JNB on 6 November 2015. This meeting was attended by Shri KT Rama Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Panchayati Raj and IT of Telangana, Shri R.Kishore Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare of Andhra Pradesh and Shri Ramachandran Tejavath, Special Representative of Govt. Of Telangana in New Delhi. The meeting was also attended by Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), Joint secretary (JS), MOIA, Secretary (IT), Telangana, JS (PAI & States), JS (Consular Passport & Visa), JS(Gulf), JS(General Administration Department), AP Govt., Resident commissioner (RC) Telangana and RC Andhra Pradesh, PS to EAM, Addl. PS to EAM and other officers of MEA. Some of the 'Female Domestic workers' from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, who had since returned to India, also participated.
- l. The States Division organized a meet on 17 November 2015, which was attended by delegates from **New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and officers of Ministry of External Affairs**. This meeting was a prelude to the foreign exposure visit of a team hand-picked from the grass root workers of NDMC - a group of sanitation workers and baldars (diggers) - to Tokyo & Seoul to learn about waste management systems in these countries.

6. Facilitation of Visits of Foreign Dignitaries to India

- a. The States Division facilitated meetings, during the visit of **Mr. Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture, Japan to Gujarat and Rajasthan** from 14 -16 July 2015. Representative from the Division also attended the meeting at Jaipur (Rajasthan).

- b. The States Division facilitated the visit of the **Counsellor of European delegation, Ms. Anne Marchal, who led a EU team to Bihar** (Patna and Bodhgaya) in August 2015 and met the Chief Secretary, senior State Government Officers as well as heads of various political parties.
- c. The States Division in coordination with PAI Division and Government of Kerala, received and supervised in person the **arrangements regarding visit of delegation comprising more than 100 members from Afghanistan** including Ministers, Members of Parliament and Diplomats to watch the final match between India and Afghanistan in South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 3 January 2016.
- d. The States Division is involved in **organizing the visit of the Nordic Ambassadors to the Assam, Manipur and Sikkim** held in March.
- e. The States Division was also involved in organizing the visits of the foreign dignitaries to the **“Invest Karnataka – 2016”** held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from 3-5 February 2016 and the **“Make in India Summit”**, Mumbai, Maharashtra held from 13-18 February 2016.

7. Miscellaneous

- a. The States Division represented MEA in the meeting attended by the Joint Secretaries of various ministries on **“Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”** and **“Ganga Rejuvenation Plan”**.
- b. Representatives from the States Division participated in the **launch of Xiami’s ‘Make in India’ mobile phone** on 10 August 2015 at Visakhapatnam.
- c. The States Division represented the Ministry of External Affairs at Jaipur on 20 October 2015 at a function, presided over by Hon’ble CM of Rajasthan in the context of a travelling exhibition on the topic **“Memories of Mahatma”**.
- d. The States Division represented MEA at **Manipur Sangai Festival-2015**, a grand annual tourist and cultural event, and which showcases Manipur’s rich tradition and culture to the world with the aim to make Manipur a world class tourist destination.
- e. Representatives from the States Division also participated in the **Conference on Cooperative Federalism, hosted in Vigyan Bhawan from 20-21 January 2016** and interacted with many state government dignitaries about what they expect from the Division and how to induce the states to be more participative and pro active.



Counter Terrorism

In the wake of various terrorism-related incidents that occurred in different parts of the world during the year, the issue of terrorism found prominent mention in various high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings. During all such interactions, India strongly condemned terrorism in all its manifestations and reiterated its commitment to combating the menace at a global level.

India continued to hold structured consultations through Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) with various partner countries. During 2015-16, India held meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (CT) with Russia, BIMSTEC, EU, Netherlands, Israel, Australia, Indonesia, China, Japan, France and Egypt.

As a founding member of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), which was established in 2011, India regularly participates in all the GCTF meetings. MEA participated at a senior level in the GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting, Ministerial Meeting and Leaders' Summit convened in New York in September 2015 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

India voiced strong concerns regarding the scourge of terrorism at the BRICS and G-20 Summits held in November 2015. Separately, during various high-level exchanges, it also emphasized the importance of a united response to address this problem under the umbrella of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) proposed by it in the UN in 1996.



Global Cyber Issues

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Keeping in view the vision for achieving 'Digital India' and increasing involvement of India in important global platform on cyber issues, Ministry of External affairs (MEA) is actively pushing for a leadership role for India on global cyber issues. Global Cyber Issues Division of MEA handles all matters relating to global cyber issues.

India continued its efforts to have wider interaction with the global community on cyber issues. Deputy NSA led an Indian delegation to the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2015 held at The Hague from 16-17 April 2015. India became a Founder Member of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) which was launched during GCCS. Deputy NSA also led the Indian delegation for the 4th India-

US Cyber Dialogue (10-12 August 2015). Bilateral cyber dialogues were held with EU (21 May 2015), Australia (24 August 2015) and Germany (09 October 2015).

India was represented at ICANN 54 held at Dublin from 18-22 October 2015 and it participated at the 10th Internet Governance Forum held from 10-13 November 2015 at Joao Pessoa, Brazil.

India has been actively involved in the 10-year review of World Summit on Information Society that commenced in June 2015 and culminated in a High-Level Meeting on 15-16 December 2015 at New York. MEA participated in the Indian delegation led by Secretary (DeitY) to the event.

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Boundary Cell

Boundary Cell continued to provide cartographic advice and technical support on border related matters to the concerned Territorial Divisions within Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), including for ongoing negotiations with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan and for management of India's external boundaries. It assists in collection and digitization of the available cartographic Strip/Basis Maps concerning international borders. The Boundary Cell examines all aspects of India's external boundaries and map sheets involving international boundaries of India in close coordination with Survey of India and Military Survey (MOGS-GS) for their publications. The cell also liaises with Survey of India, State Governments on Joint boundary survey work and maintenance/repairs/construction of boundary pillars and on reports of any encroachment into Indian territories and maintenance of database. Boundary Cell renders assistance in the collection and digitization of information pertaining to Maritime Boundary, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also delineation of continental

shelf. It securitizes restricted and secret map sheets in coordination with Ministry of Defence and maintains liaison with Naval Hydrographic office and concerned Departments and Ministries. Boundary Cell is the repository of all maps/documents/information pertaining to India's International Borders.

During 2015-16, Boundary Cell participated in various International/Inter-Ministerial meetings on International Land & Maritime Boundary of India with Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar.

Boundary cell assisted in ratification of Protocol 2011 to Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) 1974, and resolving outstanding issues of erstwhile un-demarcated segments, Adverse Possession Land Areas and Enclaves. 30 Strip maps of India-Bangladesh International Boundary were finalized and signed by plenipotentiaries of both the countries on 30 July 2015 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.



The year 2014-15 saw a significant revamping of the Policy Planning and Research Division in Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The Division was strengthened through increased allocation of human and financial resources and its mandate was recast and streamlined to enable it to perform the role envisaged for it when it was first set up several decades ago.

The important elements of the redefined mandate of the Division are as under:

- (i) to undertake a continuous and forward looking analysis of our principal foreign policy objectives and to provide research based perspective on ongoing issues/policies to the Ministry. This involves doing in house work or utilizing the services of research organizations and think tanks outside the Government.
- (ii) proactive outreach to Indian think tanks to gain ideas and perspectives for foreign policy formulation, and also to liaise with them to guide them on the kind of research that would be useful to the Ministry.
- (iii) organize conferences in partnership with major think tanks and academic institutions with the aim to develop platforms in India where discussions on contemporary foreign policy issues can take place among leading strategic experts and policy makers around the world.
- (iv) develop institutionalized dialogues on policy planning with our important diplomatic partners for exchange of views on long term strategic planning and priorities.
- (v) ensure India's participation in important diplomatic conferences in India and abroad to present India's perspective as well as to benefit from exchanges between experts and policy makers at such conferences.

During the year, a number of steps were taken to strengthen resource allocation for the Division. These include:

- (i) consolidating financial resources deployed by different divisions of the Ministry under the PP&R Division, which were related to financial aid to think tanks and for organizing seminars and conferences as well as conducting topical studies.(Appendix VI). A higher allocation for such purpose is proposed, subject to approval, for the next financial year.
- (ii) deploying additional human resources from within the resource pool of the Ministry.
- (iii) initiating steps to induct specialists from other Ministries. So far an officer from Indian Army and another with economic background has been inducted.
- (iv) recruiting specialists on international relations from the academic and think tank community to serve as consultants in the Division. So far, two such specialists have joined the Ministry and two more are expected to join shortly.

During the year, the Division produced a number of research papers and policy briefs on specific aspects of India's foreign policy. These included areas which require recalibration of existing policy as well as areas where new developments at global level require policy response. In doing so, the Division collaborated with other relevant branches of the government and with reputed research organizations and think tanks to seek their expertise in devising our policy stance.

In order to create platforms for discussions and articulation on major contemporary foreign policy issues, the Division initiated proposals to organize major foreign policy conferences in India on an annual basis in partnership with

major think tanks in the country. The first such conference was organized in partnership with Observer Research Foundation titled “Raisina Dialogue” on 1-3 March 2016. Process to organize another such dialogue, titled “Gateway of India Dialogue” with Gateway House in Mumbai on 16-17 April 2016 has also been initiated. More such conferences would be organized in the coming year. A number of seminars and conferences devoted to foreign policy issues were also supported. The Division directly participated or ensured participation from relevant agencies in important international conferences and bilateral or minilateral track 1.5 and track 2 dialogues.

As part of the initiative to develop linkages with important diplomatic partners with a view to exchange perspectives on policy planning and priorities, discussions were held with counterparts in the foreign offices of US, Russia, UK, Germany, France, Australia and Israel. Formal policy planning dialogues were announced during the year with

USA and Germany and first round of such dialogues were held in November 2015 and February 2016 respectively. Earlier the first round of joint consultations with policy planning departments of BRICS countries were also held in May 2015. Efforts to initiate similar dialogues with other key partners and to revive existing dialogues will continue during the next year.

In order to disseminate research and analysis in the wider think tank and strategic circles among MEA officers, the Division developed a web based portal for circulation of relevant research papers and articles on contemporary foreign policy issues to officials working in our Ministry and Missions abroad. The portal is also used to update them on the proceedings of ongoing seminars and conferences in areas of Ministry’s interest. Situation reports and issue briefs prepared by PP&R Division on subjects of interest are also circulated through this portal.



In 2015, Protocol Division of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) coordinated 57 incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister.

Besides, Protocol Division coordinated the 2nd Forum of India-Pacific Islands' Cooperation Summit during 19-21 August 2015 wherein 14 Heads of State and Government of Pacific Islands attended the Summit. Further, the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit of 54 countries took place during 26-30 October 2015, in which 41 Heads of State and Government participated and others were represented at

lower levels.

During the period under reference, Equatorial Guinea opened its Embassy in New Delhi; Bangladesh opened its Deputy High Commission in Guwahati; Sri Lanka its Consulate in Kolkata and Norway its Consulate in Mumbai. Five Honorary Consulates were opened in the cities of Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and New Delhi. 29 Heads of Mission presented their Credentials to Rashtrapati. 51 new posts were created in the Diplomatic Missions/ International Organisations.

CALENDAR OF VISITS

STATE VISITS BY HEAD OF STATE/HEAD OF GOVERNMENT/VICE PRESIDENT & EQUIVALENT

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1	President of Afghanistan	April 27-29, 2015
2	President of Tanzania	June 17-20, 2015
3	President of Mozambique	August 4-7, 2015
4	President of Seychelles	August 25-27, 2015

OFFICIAL/WORKING VISITS BY HEAD OF STATE/HEAD OF GOVERNMENT/VICE PRESIDENT & EQUIVALENT

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1	Prime Minister of Netherlands	June 5-7, 2015
2	Prime Minister of Bangladesh	August 19, 2015
3	Vice President of Afghanistan	October 2-4, 2015
4	Chancellor of Germany	October 4-5, 2015
5	Vice President of Costa Rica	October 7-13, 2015
6	Vice President of China	November 3-7, 2015
7	Prime Minister of Bhutan	November 13-17, 2015
8	President of Mauritius	December 6-9, 2015
9	Prime Minister of Japan	December 11-13, 2015

**PRIVATE/TRANSIT VISITS BY HEAD OF STATE/HEAD OF GOVERNMENT/
VICE PRESIDENT & EQUIVALENT**

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1	Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	April 18, 2015
2	President of Mauritius	April 18-24, 2015
3	Former President of Afghanistan	August 4-8, 2015

OFFICIAL VISITS BY FOREIGN MINISTERS & EQUIVALENT

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1	Foreign Minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	April 12-14, 2015
2	Foreign Minister of Belarus	April 14-16, 2015
3	Foreign Minister of Australia	April 12-16, 2015
4	Foreign Minister of Spain	April 26-28, 2015
5	Foreign Minister of Tajikistan	May 11-15, 2015
6	Foreign Minister of Congo	May 13-16, 2015
7	Former Prime Minister of Nepal	July 14-19, 2015
8	Foreign Minister of Myanmar	July 14-18, 2015
9	Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic	August 9-10, 2015
10	Foreign Minister of Iran	August 13-14, 2015
11	President of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	August 28-31, 2015
12	Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE)	September 2-3, 2015
13	Foreign Minister of Uruguay	October 6-11, 2015
14	Foreign Minister of Philippines	October 13-15, 2015
15	Foreign Minister of Singapore	October 13, 2015
16	Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal	October 17-19, 2015
17	Foreign Minister of Norway	November 2-4, 2015
18	Foreign Minister of Brazil	November 18-19, 2015
19	Foreign Minister of France	November 20-21, 2015
20	Foreign Minister of Maldives	November 20-22, 2015
21	Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal	Nov 30 - Dec 2, 2015
22	Foreign Minister of Ireland	December 8-10, 2015
23	Secretary General ASEAN	December 8-12, 2015

OUTGOING VISITS OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER

S No.	Dignitary	Dates
1.	Prime Minister to France, Germany, Canada	April 9-17, 2015
2.	President to Moscow	May 7-10, 2015
3.	Prime Minister to China, Mongolia, South Korea	May 13-19, 2015
4.	President to Sweden and Belarus	May 31-June 4, 2015
5.	Prime Minister to Bangladesh	June 6-7, 2015
6.	Prime Minister to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Ufa, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	July 6-13, 2015
7.	Prime Minister to UAE	August 16-17, 2015
8.	Vice President to Cambodia and Laos	September 12-18, 2015
9.	Prime Minister to Ireland, USA	September 23-29, 2015
10.	President to Jordan, Palestine, Israel	October 10-15, 2015
11.	Vice President to Indonesia	November 1-5, 2015
12.	Prime Minister to UK and Turkey	November 12-15, 2015
13.	Prime Minister to Malaysia & Singapore	November 20-24, 2015
14.	Prime Minister to France	Nov-29 to Dec 1, 2015
15.	Vice President to Turkmenistan	December 11-13, 2015
16.	Prime Minister to Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan	December 23-25, 2015

OUTGOING VISITS OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

1.	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	7-9 April, 2015
2.	Jakarta, Indonesia	21-25 April, 2015
3.	Pretoria, South Africa	18-20 May, 2015
4.	New York, USA	20-22 June, 2015
5.	Kathmandu, Nepal	24-25 June, 2015
6.	Bangkok, Thailand	27-29 June, 2015
7.	Egypt and Germany	23-27 August, 2015
8.	Washington, USA	21-23 September, 2015
9.	New York, USA	29 September - 2 October, 2015
10.	Maldives	10-11 October, 2015
11.	Moscow	19-21 October, 2015
12.	Malta	26-29 November, 2015
13.	Islamabad	8-9 December, 2015
14.	Israel & Palestine	16-19 January, 2016
15.	Bahrain	23-24 January, 2016

Consular, Passport and Visa Services

The Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division of the Ministry provides passport services through Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its network of Passport Offices and Passport Seva Kendras; and consular, visa and passport services to overseas Indians/foreign nationals through the Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

Passport Services

In recent years, the issuance of passports has emerged as the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric service rendered by the Ministry of External Affairs. Accordingly, the Ministry has made many quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services in the country. Indian passports (together with other travel documents such as Identity Certificates for Tibetan refugees, Emergency Certificates for return to India, Police Clearance Certificates and Line of Control Travel Permits in Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through Central Passport Organization and its all-India network of 37 Passport Offices, CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. In addition to the 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) running in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, the Ministry set up 8 additional Passport Seva Kendras in Agartala, Aizawl, Gangtok, Imphal, Kalaburagi, Karimnagar, Darbhanga and Shillong, thus, providing extended reach to passport applicants, particularly in the North East. 10 more Passport Seva Kendras are being set up for the convenience of citizens which will take the no. of PSKs to 95 during the year 2016. For Indians living abroad, passports, OCI cards, ECs and other miscellaneous consular services, apart from attestation of consular documents, are rendered by 183 Indian Missions/Posts.

Huge Growth in Passport services

Over the last five years, there has been huge expansion in

both the scope and volume of passport related services. 37 Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 1.03 crore passport service related applications including Police Clearance Certificates, and 1.06 crore passports and related documents were issued (inclusive of 2547 Diplomatic Passports, 27138 Official Passports, 4,01,781 Police Clearance Certificate (PCC) ,4605 Surrender Certificates (SC), 3852 Identity Certificate(IC) and 4623 Line of Control (LoC) permit applications), showing an increase in applications by 19% and 24% in terms of services rendered as compared to 2014. 183 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued approx. 14 lakh passports, ECs and other passport related miscellaneous services. Thus, the Government of India, in total, rendered 1.20 crore passport and other related services in a year. This is an all time high and amounts to 100% increase since 2010. As on 31 December 2015, 6,32,99,804 citizens held valid passports (up from 5.70 crore in 2014 and 5.19 crore in 2013). India today is placed third behind China and the United States in terms of global passport issuance.

The revenue of the Government on account of passport fees has registered steep growth: 110% increase since 2011-12. The total revenue generated from all passport services till December 2015 is Rs.1,630,90,66,204 (the total revenue expected to be accrued from all passport services in 2015-16 is around Rs. 2300 crore compared to Rs. 2167.07 crore in 2014-15 and Rs. 1030.58 crore in 2011-2012. An amount of Rs.902.70 crore has been allocated to Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2015-16.

Central Passport Organization

The Central Passport Organization was created in 1959 as a Subordinate Office of the Ministry and is headed by Joint Secretary and Chief Passport Officer, who also acts as Appellate Authority under the Passports Act 1967 and

the Head of Department under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules 1978. The total sanctioned strength of the Central Passport Organization Cadre was 2697 as on 31 December 2015. In addition, 21 posts including 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff were created by the Union Cabinet decision in 2007 to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project.

The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel by re-structuring and expanding of the CPO cadre, to ensure that vacant posts available to them are filled by faster promotion. The Ministry notified a modified Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme (PLIS) on 21 March 2013, to financially incentivize individual performance measured against pre-set and mutually agreed upon norms. This is a unique scheme for the GOI employees. With a view to recognize meritorious services rendered by CPO employees and thus, contribute to improving governance in the country, Passport Seva Puraskars have been instituted. The Puraskars are given away annually to the selected employees of Passport Offices during the Passport Officers Conference every year.

In the year 2015, 8 DPCs were held for promotion of 442 officials: DPC for 171 Superintendent to PGO on 23 February 2015, DPC for 21 officials for MACP Scheme (Stenographer, UDC, LDC & office Assistant) on 19 March 2015, DPC for Assistant to Superintendent (Supplementary) on 24 February 2015, DPC for 35 UDC to Assistant on 22 May 2015, DPC for one Stenographer Grade II to I, promotion through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination of 84 UDC to Assistant, DPC for 35 Assistant to Superintendent on 27 October 2015, DPC for 45 Superintendent to PGO on 27 October 2015 and DPC for 2 LDC to UDC on 19 November 2015.

The Staff Selection Commission has completed the recruitment process and has already sent dossiers for 92 Assistants and 550 Lower Division Clerks for appointment. The Ministry has issued offers of appointment to these candidates.

Physical Infrastructure

Out of 37 Passport Offices, 18 are operating from own building, 4 are running from Government of India (GoI) buildings and remaining 15 are operating from rented buildings. In line with the policy of the Ministry to shift all

Passport Offices to own buildings, efforts are being made to acquire plot of land to construct state-of-art buildings. The Ministry has so far acquired plots of land at 8 places viz. Srinagar, Amritsar, Dehradun, Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal, Guwahati and Jalandhar. The construction of new PO building Mumbai has been completed and the Ministry is in process of its occupation after approval of concerned authorities. On 26 May 2015, External Affairs Minister laid the foundation stone of the Passport Bhavan in Bhopal. The construction work is in progress at Jalandhar and in Amritsar. The approval to purchase land for Passport Office Kolkata has been accorded and land shall be acquired shortly. The process of purchasing land from the State Government has also been initiated for Passport Office, Ranchi.

Successful Implementation of Passport Seva Project

The Passport Seva Programme, an ambitious Mission Mode Project, is being successfully run in Public-Private Partnership mode and as part of the National e-Governance Plan with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as the Service Provider. The passport and related services applications have crossed 1 crore in 2015, thereby emerging as the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric services rendered by the Ministry of External Affairs. After a successful nationwide rollout during 2011-12, the scheme is currently in the Operations and Maintenance Phase since 14 June 2012 and completed three and half years of successful operations.

Seventy seven Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) with best-in-class amenities have been set up across the country as extended arms of the 37 Passport Offices, thus providing extended reach to passport applicants. Daily footfall across all the PSKs is about 50,000 citizens. A 24 x 7 National Call Centre has been set up which provides real-time status and up-to-date information in 17 languages using a toll free number (1800-258-1800). The Call Centre receives over 20,000 calls per day. The portal <http://passportindia.gov.in> also provides up-to-date real time information which is updated regularly. The Project is integrated with the States/UTs' Police system for verification of applicants' personal particulars, with India Post for postal delivery and with ISP Nashik for supply management of passport booklets. The system has also been integrated across the country with Aadhar database since August 2015. The Project also provides real time up-to-date

information to 183 Missions and Posts abroad as well as the Immigration authorities. An SMS/email alert is sent to applicant as soon as passport is despatched.

Passport India Portal

An online portal passportindia.gov.in has been created to offer passport services, giving comprehensive and latest information on passport services, appointment procedure, documentation, status enquiry and other related issues, thus enabling anytime-anywhere access. This portal is regularly monitored and upgraded to make it more user-friendly and simpler. The portal is bilingual with information displayed prominently in Hindi as well. It is kept updated with Public Notices, Advisories and Press Releases related to passport services developments from time to time. A more user-friendly portal was released in June 2015. There are 2 crore plus hits per day on the portal. Passport applicants are sent 1 lakh plus SMSs per day.

Noticeable Improvements in service delivery

Thanks to the implementation of the Passport Seva Project, there has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country. Countrywide during January – December 2015, 38% of normal passports are issued within 3 days; 74% within 7 days; 91% within 14 days; 94% within 21 days and 95% within 30 days (excluding the time taken for police verification). Today, on a pan India basis, 68% of normal passports are issued within a month which includes police verification, which was 46% in 2014. In case of Tatkaal passports, 34% are issued on the day of application submission, 65% within 1 day and 87% within 3 days. Number of tatkaal category applications are now 5% of total applications compared to 8% in 2013.

As of 31 December 2015, the number of appointment slots released per day is more than 60,000. This is an increase of 14% over last year. The appointment for visiting a PSK is now available within 1-7 days at all Passport Offices across the country.

Volume of Applications

- Top 5 States in terms of number of passport applications received and services rendered were Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, accounting for more than 51% of total applications.

- Top 6 Passport Offices in terms of number of applications received and services rendered: Lucknow (9.48 lakh), Hyderabad(7.60 lakh), Bangalore(6.33 lakh), Kolkata(6.13 lakh), Ahmedabad (5.66 lakh) and Delhi(5.06 lakh)
- Top 5 districts in terms of number of applications received and services rendered were(excluding metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai): Mallapuram, Pune, Thane, Ahmedabad and Kozhikode
- Uttara Pradesh created history, emerged as the No. 1 state for the first time in terms of Passport Services (13.37 lakh)
- For the first time, 4 states become Passport millionaire states; UP 13.37 lakh), Maharashtra (11.87 lakh), Kerala (11.44 lakh) and Tamil Nadu(10.08 lakh)

Police Verification

Police Verification plays an important role in the timely issuance of passports. The Ministry engaged closely with the Police Departments across States/UTs to speed up police verification. The all-India average for the number of days taken to complete the police verification came down to 34 (was 42 in 2014 and 49 in 2013) and about 61% of the PVs got completed within the desired time limit of 21 days, showing an improvement of 15 days and about 24% since last year. 87.02 lakh plus police verification reports were submitted in the PSP system with an increase of 22.5% since last year.

Some States/UTs have consistently maintained low Police Verification processing times. For example, under the new system, Telangana completed police verification in 08 days on an average, followed by Andhra Pradesh (12 days), Chandigarh (12 days), Goa (12 days), Delhi (14 days), Haryana (15 days), Gujarat & Punjab (17 days), Uttar Pradesh (20 days) and Rajasthan (21 days). Hyderabad is the best performing RPO completing police verification in 9 days, followed by Goa (12 days), Visakhapatnam (12 days), Delhi (15 days) and Jalandhar (16 days). Constant efforts by the Ministry have resulted in more and more Districts switching over to the preferred District Police Headquarters Verification Model. So far, 683 out of the 731 Police Districts have adopted the

new system, taking care of 98.29% of PV volume and are working on the District model.

The Ministry, in association with the Service Provider, is working on an Android based 'mPassport Police' app which would have the capability to capture passport applicant's personal particulars and photograph and transmit the same electronically to concerned stakeholders. The app would also capture the location co-ordinates of the applicant's place of residence based on 'Google map' ensuring the authenticity of the field verification by police. The app, after development and testing, should be available for actual use during the current financial year.

Functional Enhancements/Simplification of Procedures for realizing Minimum Government Maximum Governance

- mPassport Seva mobile app, which was launched on Android platform in March 2013, has now been made available on Windows and Apple iOS platforms also. There have been 13.7 lakh mobile app download till 31 December 2015, with 15000 mobile app hits per day.
- Photo passbooks issued by Scheduled Private Sector Indian banks and Regional Rural banks in addition to the ones issued by Scheduled Public Sector banks are now acceptable as proof of address and identity for the purpose of rendering passport service.
- For providing passport services to abandoned/orphaned children, the requirements of acceptance of Birth Certificate have been liberalised.
- The requirement of NOC by Government officials for passport applications has also been liberalised.
- To make passport issuance simpler, secure and reliable, online integration of UIDAI database for validating Aadhar number submitted by an applicant, as a proof of Identity and proof of address, was rolled out successfully during the year.
- To understand citizen sentiments and to receive feedback emanating from social media, Passport Seva has provision to capture inputs from Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and YouTube. Every Passport Officer and CPV, Headquarters has Twitter/Facebook account

and grievances are attended to regularly through these means as well.

- A non-remunerative 4 – 8 weeks internship scheme was launched effective 8 June 2015 for graduate students to act as 'Passport Seva Mitra' to enable them to experience e-governance, citizen-centricity and service orientation brought about by Passport Seva. 22 interns successfully completed their internship.
- In compliance with the directive of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Ministry organised a "Workshop on Passport Process Simplification, Uniform Police Verification and Technical Improvements" on 18 August 2015. The Workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V.K. Singh, (Retd.). Main participants in the Workshop were Ministry of Home Affairs, Deptt. of Information Technology, DARPG, Deptt. of Posts, UIDAI, Directors General of Police/their representatives from 8 states, concerned Passport Officers and representatives of Service Provider. The Workshop, with a view to ensure more efficient and streamlined passport service delivery, deliberated on the need for speedy police verification, integration of various databases such as Aadhaar/UIDAI, IVFRT, CCTNS, NPR/NRIC and PAN Card with Passport Seva system, online filing of passport applications through Post Offices, role of postmen in verification of passport applicants and wider publicity to Common Service Centres. Technical and Process Improvements viz. mPassport Police App, Digi Locker, eSign, ePassport, Advanced passport personalisation solution and integration of Indian Missions/Posts abroad with Passport Seva system were also discussed.

Passport Melas

To meet increased demand for passport services, 397 passport melas were organized from time to time in the weekends/holidays by Passport Offices for the period in 2015. During these melas, more than 2.56 lakh passport applications were serviced during extended working hours.

Passport Seva Camps

With an aim to cater to the ever increasing demand of passports

and at reaching out to people located far away from PSKs, Passport Seva camps were organized at multiple locations. 124 Passport Seva Camps have been organized during 2015 at various locations across the country from Kashmir (Leh) to Kanyakumari (TN) including Agartala (Tripura), Kohima (Nagaland), Rajauri (J & K), Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan), Bhuj (Gujarat), Sambalpur (Odisha), Lakshadweep Islands, Daman & Diu and Puducherry. It is yet another citizen-centric measure in taking IT-driven public services closer home, in which more than 51,000 applications have been received.

Common Services Centres

With a view to address the challenge of digital divide, especially in the rural hinterland, the Ministry in association with M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. promoted by DeitY, launched on 19 March 2014, online filing of passport related services applications in pilot mode through the vast network of over one lakh Common Services Centers (CSCs) to take citizen-centric services closer home. The initiative largely bridged the digital divide in the country. The passport related services has been added as part of their bouquet of services. The CSCs facilitate filling and uploading of Passport application form, payment of applicable fee (through debit/credit card or through SBI internet banking/challan mode) and scheduling of appointment for visit to the PSK, at nominal charge not exceeding Rs. 100/-. The services through CSCs are available throughout the week, including during the weekend. 1,56,272 applicants have used these services since the start of service in April 2014. During the year, 1,19,000 applications were submitted online at these CSCs.

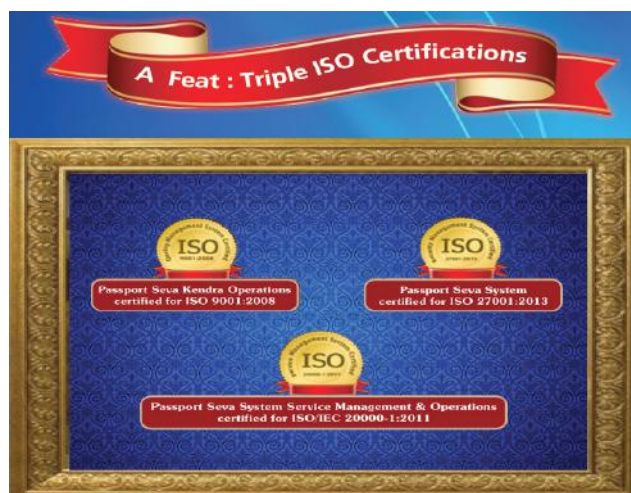
Passport Services Overseas

During 2015, 183 Indian Missions/Posts abroad rendered 13.85 lakh passport and other related services. Two countries, namely UAE and Saudi Arabia contributed to 35.11% of total services abroad (Location-wise, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Doha, Bahrain accounted for 55.76% services). Top ten countries from the perspective of passport services were; UAE, Saudi Arabia, US, Doha, Kuwait, Muscat, Singapore, Canada, UK, and Bahrain. They collectively contributed to 77% of total passport services abroad.

Awards & Recognition:

The Project has received recognition at the highest level in the Government; has been the subject of case studies; and won several awards:-

- (i) On 30 January 2015, the PSP was awarded National Award for e-Governance 2014-2015 (Gold award) for Outstanding Performance in Citizen-Centric Service Delivery, by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions (January 2015)
- (ii) On 14 February 2015, PSP won the Express Group e-Governance award under the category “Outstanding Performance in Citizen Service Delivery
- (iii) On 25 March 2015, PSP won the Web Ratna Platinum Award for Passport Seva Portal in the Outstanding Content Category under the ‘Citizen Centric services’ category for excellence in e-governance initiatives through Web.
- (iv) On 20 May 2015, Passport Seva Project (PSP) achieved the unique distinction of becoming the first Mission Mode e-Governance project to be certified against 3 widely recognized ISO standards viz. **ISO 9001:2008, 20000:2011 and 27001:2013.**
- (v) On 18 August 2015, Shri Muktesh K. Pardeshi and Shri Golok K. Simli received CIO Leader Business Impact Awards 2015.
- (vi) On 18 December 2015, Passport Seva Project received Jewels of India Award 2015.



Passport Seva achieves triple ISO Certifications

Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers Conference

On 24 June 2015, Foreign Secretary inaugurated the third Passport Seva Divas and a three-day Passport Officers Conference, which was held during the period 24-26 June 2015. The agenda of the Conference 2015 was to review Passport Seva operations during the preceding year and to set the objectives/targets to be achieved during 2015-16. The valedictory address was delivered by External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, in the presence of Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs. During the event, a “Passport Seva e-book” and “mPassport Police” mobile application prototype for police verification were unveiled. Passport Seva Puraskars were given away to officials for exhibiting high degree of devotion towards duty and delivering excellent services to the citizens.

Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Under the Passport Seva Project (PSP), the Ministry has put in place a strengthened Grievance Redressal system whereby

a multilingual National Call Centre with a toll free number (1800-258-1800), operating in 17 languages and on 24X7 basis, has been set up to cater to dissemination of information about various passport related services, including handling of grievances and citizen feedback, which at present works on a central system platform. . It presently handles approximately 20, 000 calls per day (out of which 48% are in Hindi and 23% in English). As part of the PSP, a Passport Seva online portal (www.passportindia.gov.in) has been put in place which provides comprehensive and latest information on all passport related services, with updation on various citizen friendly measures including advisories/circulars issued from time to time. This portal has also an email-based helpdesk, where suggestions and grievances can be logged. Citizens can also monitor the status of their passport application/grievance online through this portal.

A Public Grievance Redressal Cell (PGRC) has been established in CPV Division under the supervision of the Joint Secretary (Passport Seva Project) and Chief Passport Officer, who is also designated as the Director of Public



Unveiling of Passport Seva e-book on Passport Seva Divas 2015

Grievances for the Ministry. It deals with grievances received through telephone, e-mail and post directly from general public and also references from various Government offices such as President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Central Vigilance Commission and Parliament Secretariat. In addition, all Passport Offices handle public grievances through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, (www.pgportal.gov.in). During the year 2015, 35,351 public grievance petitions (inclusive of 16,605 email, post, fax related to grievances/enquiries and CPGRAM as mentioned above) were received, out of which 34,475 have been disposed off. The latest position on their applications, alongwith directions for further action, is posted on this website, which can be easily accessed by the public for its benefit. The number of complaints/grievances have steadily gone down over the last 3 years.

All Passport Offices handle public grievances through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Information and Facilitation Counters, Public Grievance Cell and Help Desks have been set up at strategic locations in Passport Offices and Passport Seva Kendras to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. The complaint/suggestion boxes are also installed on strategic locations at Passport Offices and Passport Seva Kendras. The names, addresses and phone number of the Public Grievance Officer are also displayed in the Passport Offices/PSKs and also on website of the Passport Offices. There is a Public Grievance redressal mechanism in all Passport offices to enquire into and redress any complaints from citizens within a timeframe.

Prime Minister conducted a meeting through video conference on 24 June 2015 in respect of Government's ambitious multi-purpose and multi-modal platform, **PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)**. In this meeting, a review of pending grievances received through CPGRAMS was undertaken for re-engineering and strengthening the system. Follow up actions were taken on decisions taken during the meeting.

Passport Adalats & Melas

Passport Offices hold Passport Adalats regularly to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have

been very useful in disposing of some 7000 old and complex cases through direct interaction with the applicants in 2015.

With the view to address difficulties faced by citizens in obtaining appointments and to meet increased demand for passport services, weekend passport melas are organized from time to time by Passport Offices. In 2015, 397 Passport Melas (compared to 384 in 2014) were organized from time to time during the weekend/holidays by various Passport Offices during which 2.54 lakh passport applications were processed.

Haj pilgrims: Special Drive

It is a matter of satisfaction that the issuance of passports to prospective Haj pilgrims was a very smooth affair in 2015 as well. Against the allocated Haj quota of 1,25,000 applications, approximately 3 lakh application forms were received by the Haj Committee by the prescribed deadline. Instructions were issued to all the Passport offices to accord high priority to passport applications of prospective Haj applicants and extend requisite assistance for expeditious issuance of passports to them by means of nominating a nodal office; opening of facilitation counter, reserving appointment slots for such applicants and attending to requests/grievances petitions received from such citizens in a very prompt manner.

Inspection of Passport Offices

Passport Offices in various States are inspected regularly. Apart from this, vigilance inspection of these offices is also done on regular basis. Passport Seva Kendras, are also inspected under the Non-technical Serviced Level Agreements (SLA) on regular basis. During 2015, more than 35 regular inspection/vigilance inspection /SLA inspections were carried out.

Right to Information Act (RTI)

A Central Public Information Officer and Assistant Public Information Officer have been appointed in every Passport Office to provide information to applicants under the RTI Act. A Central Public Information Officer has also been appointed in the CPV Division. Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO is the First Appellate Authority in respect of all Passport Offices and also for the CPV Division. A total of 7101 online and postal RTI applications were received and disposed off by the Division during the period 1 January to

31 December 2015 (out of this 5893 applications transferred to RPOs for action at their end and 1208 replies sent from CPV Division). During the same period, 9995 postal and online First Appeals were also received and disposed off.

Appeals (u/s 11 of the Passports Act)

The appeal against the decisions of PIAs is a statutory right conferred upon the affected persons u/s 11 of the Passports Act. In 2015, 3 appeal sessions took place in the month of April, August and October 2015, whereby 105 appellants attended the proceedings. In pursuance of decision taken during the hearing, 140 Speaking Orders were issued.

Manufacturing and Personalization of Travel Documents

All Indian travel documents are manufactured by India Security Press, Nashik. In order to improve the overall quality, functionality and security of Indian passports, various measures have been taken. All Passport Offices, Headquarters and select Missions/Posts abroad have been provided with machine readable passport printers. The Ministry is at present in the stage of floating a tender for procurement of “Next Generation Automatic Machine Readable Passport Personalization Printers”, which are in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) specifications and will fully support the personalization of e-passport.

For 160 Missions/Posts abroad and Office of Assistant Secretary (Passport) Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, Machine Readable Passports (MRP) with ghost image security feature are printed at Central Indian Passport Printing System (CIPPS) of the CPV Division, New Delhi. CIPPS printed 1,78,101 passports during the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 (inclusive of 4392 for Andaman and Nicobar Islands).

In accordance with ICAO recommendations to incorporate biometric data in the Machine Readable Travel Documents, India has also decided to upgrade its existing passports to electronic category of e-passports. Indian Security Press (ISP) Nashik has floated a global PQB for procurement of electronic contactless inlays for manufacturing of e-Passports.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

India served as a member of the Technical Advisory Group

(TAG) on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTD) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and has been implementing the ICAO guidelines on MRTD. The ICAO, in terms of Document 9303 as the central reference, has established ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), on cost sharing basis, to promote a globally inter-operable e-passport validation scheme for electronic travel documents to support ICAO’s strategic objectives to improve civil aviation security. The PKD Board members are nominated by PKD participating countries and appointed by the ICAO Council. India was admitted to ICAO PKD in February 2009. Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO participated in the 22nd PKD board meeting and XIth Symposium & Exhibition on MRTDs, Biometrics & Security Standards in Montreal for the period 13 - 16 October 2015. India was also represented by Ministry officials at first “Interpol world” biennial trade event held at Singapore for the period 13-18 April 2015 , 21st PKD board meeting held at Wellington for the period 4-5 March 2015 and 9th Security Document World(SDW) Conference and Exhibition held for the period 9-11 June 2015 at London.

A public awareness campaign was launched to inform the public that the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has set a deadline of the 24th November 2015 for globally phasing out all non-Machine Readable Passports (MRPs). Indian Government started issuing Machine readable passports since 2001. All new Indian passports are ICAO-compliant Machine readable passports. All Passport Offices issue machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by ICAO.

Global Entry Programme (GEP)

The Global Entry is a voluntary Programme that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travellers upon arrival in the USA. India welcomed the US offer of partnership in the US GEP in the India-US joint statement released on 27 September 2013. In this respect, a bilateral India-US meet was held in Washington in September 2015.

Digitization Project

The project for “creation of image retrievable database” for the passport, visa, OCI and PIO applications in Indian Missions/Posts was awarded to a panel of 3 vendors in June 2012. In the first phase, the digitization of consular documents commenced in 5 and in second phase, in another

27 Missions/Posts, out of which work has already finished in 26 Missions/Posts and present job going on in another 4 Missions/Posts. As on 31 December 2015, nearly 21 crore consular pages have been digitized.

Parliamentary Committees' visit to RPOs/PSKs

The close interest of the Parliament in Passport services was affirmed by a large number of PQs, examination and inspection/study visits by several Parliamentary Committees:

- (a) The First Subcommittee of the Committee of Parliament on Official language made visits to Passport Office Goa (13 January 2015), Raipur (19 February 2015), Dehradun (20 February 2015), Surat (21 March 2015), Delhi (23 March 2015), Guwahati (16 April 2015), Chandigarh (11 June 2015), Srinagar (17 June 2015), Kolkata (13 July 2015), Lucknow (15 July 2015), Mumbai (18 September 2015), Hyderabad (24 September 2015) to review the implementation of Official language in the Ministry of External Affairs and its offices.
- (b) Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs made study visits to Passport Offices in Thiruvananthapuram, Goa and Srinagar during the period 6-10 July 2015.
- (c) The Standing Committee on External Affairs held its sitting on 30 July 2015 on the subject "Performance of passport issuance system and implementation of e-passport project for Indian citizens".

Public outreach

As part of expanding its outreach, the CPV Division brought out a half-yearly bulletin "Passport Patrika". Media road shows were also organized in many Passport Offices, whereby media was briefed on improvements in delivery of passport services.

Visas

Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 4.79 million visas (including 5,17,413 e-Tourist visas and 3,14,026 OCI cards) in 2015. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/

Posts continues to be simplified, which includes greater computerization of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services, which commenced in 2006.

In order to enhance the security environment of the visa issuance system, Government had decided in 2012 to introduce biometric enrolment procedure for foreigners seeking visa to visit India, as part of the IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) project. The biometric enrolment procedures currently consist of ten fingerprints with a provision of facial biometrics. As on 31 December 2015, IVFRT scheme has been introduced in 163 Indian Missions/Posts abroad, out of which 77 Missions/Posts have implemented biometrics enrolment procedures. These procedures envisage capture of biometric data only once in 5 years. The implementation of IVFRT scheme along with enrolment of biometric procedures would enhance the security of the visa issuing mechanism besides facilitating movement of genuine foreign visitors to India.

Visa Issuance by CPV Division

The CPV Division issued 5561 visas to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders during the period February to December 2015 (a new online system of Centralized Foreigners Registration Office (cFRO) has been introduced w.e.f. February 2015). The CPV Division also issued 8770 visa notes to Indian Government officials going to join Indian Missions/Posts on transfer and for official engagements during the year 2015.

Outsourcing of Visa/Consular/Passport Work by Indian Missions/Posts

The Ministry introduced outsourcing of visa services in Indian Missions and Posts abroad during 2006-07. Subsequently, passport and consular services were also outsourced. Presently, 67 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced passport/visa/consular services and collection work. The objective of outsourcing is to facilitate prompt and efficient visa, passport and consular services to the public and to provide a presentable and accessible location for delivery of these services.

E-Tourist Visa (e-TV)

The TVOA-ETA Scheme was launched on 27 November 2014. It was renamed as e-TOURIST VISA (eTV) from 15 April 2015. Initially it was available for nationals of 43

countries and was later extended to more countries. As of 31 December 2015, e-TV scheme is available for holders of passports of the 113 countries/territories:

The Finance Minister had announced in his budget speech on 28 February 2015 that this scheme will be extended to 150 countries within a year. Accordingly, the e-TV scheme is being expanded in a phased manner to extend the facility to more and more countries. A total of 5,17,413 e-Tourist visas were issued in the year 2015.

Online Processing of Visas for Foreign Missions (cFRO)

Earlier, the Official and Diplomatic visa applicants had to submit the visa application in physical form to the CPV Division. The cFRO system processes and unifies the applications online system followed for members of foreign Missions with the system used by Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRROs) for other foreigners. Under this system launched in the year 2015, foreign diplomats and their dependents can now apply online for visas at <http://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/> and upload photographs and other supporting documents. The submitted applications are scrutinized, verified and granted in three levels. The successful applications are acknowledge online and processed for grant of visa. A message is sent to them via email or SMS when the visa is ready. All data related to foreigners (diplomats and non-diplomats), is now available on a single database for easy access/retrieval.

Visa-Waiver Agreements

India has visa waiver agreements with 63 countries by which diplomatic/official passport holders are exempted from the requirements of visas. In the year 2015, Visa waiver Agreements were signed with Albania (27 November 2015), Cuba (23 March 2015), Guatemala (28 May 2015), Morocco (17 November 2015), Mozambique (06 August 2015), Poland (05 October 2015), Sri Lanka (14 March 2015), Sweden (01 June 2015) and Tunisia (30 April 2015). Similar agreements are under negotiations with other countries. A visa facilitation agreement was signed with Iran on 18 December 2015.

Attestation and Apostille Convention Project

The Attestation Cell in the CPV Division of the Ministry has been providing attestation services for authentication

of educational, commercial and personal documents of individuals for personal and commercial use in countries abroad. Apart from this, Indian business establishments also need commercial documents attested by MEA for export as well as for other business ventures abroad. Authentication is of two types: Normal Attestation and Apostille Certification. Apostille certification is done when documents are to be used in countries which are members of the Hague Apostille Convention. While Normal Attestation is free, a fee of Rs. 50/- per document/per page, as the case may be, is charged by way of Postal Order for affixing Apostille stickers. The work of collection delivery of documents for attestation/apostille by Ministry of External Affairs has been outsourced to five Companies since July 2012. These companies charge a service fee of Rs. 22/- (Personal), Rs. 18/- (Educational) and Rs. 16/- (Commercial) per document.

For the period January to December 2015, the Attestation Cell in the CPV Division attested 3,53,646 General and 1,74,878 Commercial documents and apostilled 4,36,601 documents for use in the Apostille member countries. In addition, 34,724 documents were attested/apostilled at four MEA Branch Secretariats at Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati during this period. The attestation of some types of consular documents is also done by Indian Missions/Posts for Indian citizens living abroad.

Consular Matters

Extradition and Legal Assistance

The Ministry of External Affairs has been actively pursuing negotiations with various countries for bilateral consular Agreements to provide a legal and institutional framework to combat international terrorism and organized crime including financial frauds and drugs trafficking. These Agreements include Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil and Commercial Matters and Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

During the period January to December 2015, Instruments of Ratification of the Extradition Treaty between the Government of India and the Kingdom of Thailand were exchanged at Bangkok on 29 June 2015 during the visit of Hon'ble EAM and the Instruments of Ratification of the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Philippines were exchanged at New Delhi on 14 October 2015 during

the visit of the Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Philippines. The Instruments of Ratification of the Extradition treaty signed between India and Brazil on 10 April 2008 were exchanged during the inaugural round of bilateral consular dialogue held in Brasilia on 21 July 2015. The pre-independence Extradition Treaty between India and Chile, signed by Great Britain and Chile in 1897, was notified under the Extradition Act, 1962, in the month of May 2015.

During 2015, India received five (5) extradition requests (Chile 1; UK 2 and USA 2) and sent seven (7) extradition requests (Hong Kong 1; Mauritius 1; Morocco 1; Spain 1; USA 1 and UAE 1). In addition, India received 24 requests for local prosecution from UAE. India extradited three (3) fugitives to foreign countries (Australia 1 and USA 2) and nine (9) fugitives were extradited/deported to India from other countries (Australia 1; Bangladesh 1; Indonesia 1; Morocco 1; Mauritius 1; Thailand 2 and USA 2).

Extradition dialogues were held with Australia, Thailand, US, UK and UAE, where policy and implementation issues were discussed, along with a review of outstanding cases.

Consular Issues

There are about 28 million Overseas Indians spread over 183 countries across the globe. Out of these, approximately 5 million people are Indian passport holders. The vast majority of these Indian nationals are temporary migrants, including women workers and 90% of them work in the Gulf region. These Indian workers go abroad to make a better living for themselves and to support their families back in India. However, once they reach abroad, they face a host of problems since working and living conditions abroad may not be according to their expectations.

The prime concern of the Consular Section in the CPV Division relates to looking after the welfare of Indian nationals who are living and working abroad. Besides the above, the Consular Section also deals with cases of arrest and deaths of foreigners in India, and provision of consular access to prisoners for foreign consular officers in India. Consular Section also provides assistance to the general public in finding the whereabouts and information regarding the wellbeing of missing Indian nationals. Issues relating to adoption of Indian children by Persons of Indian Origin, payment of salary dues and death-compensation to the families of deceased Indian workers, liaison with

the Ministry of Shipping regarding arrest of Indian crew members and Indian vessels, cases of marriage and divorce of Indian nationals under Foreign Marriage Act, 1969, registration of births and deaths of Indian nationals abroad, etc are also handled by the Consular Section.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad advise and guide the Indian community in an impartial manner in a variety of matters affecting the interests of the community as a whole. In order to protect the interests and welfare of Indian nationals abroad, the Government of India has set up various bilateral Joint Working Groups on Consular matters with a number of countries. Apart from this, Indian Missions/Posts render consular services viz., attestation of various documents, registration of birth and death of Indian nationals, sending mortal remains of Indian nationals back to India, registration/solemnization of marriage of Indian nationals, consular access for Indian nationals lodged in foreign jails, serving summons of Indian courts to Indian nationals residing abroad, etc.

MADAD – Consular Grievance Monitoring System

In pursuance of “Good Governance” initiatives, MEA launched a web portal (online Consular Grievances Management System) named MADAD to extend a helping hand to Indians abroad requiring consular assistance. All Indian Missions and Posts abroad and the MEA’s Branch Secretariats in Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Kolkata, are associated with this portal for consular grievance tracking and follow-up. The portal was officially launched on 21 February 2015. The MADAD online portal represents a qualitative improvement over existing procedures for handling of consular grievances, through online forwarding, tracking and escalation until their eventual resolution. It allows direct registration of the grievances by the members of the public and effective tracking of the entire grievance handling process thereafter. MADAD incorporates several innovative features such as flexible architecture to handle a variety of grievances, online filing and linking of similar grievances for easier retrieval and reference, automatic escalation and enhancement of priority, colour-coded dash boards for easy assessment and monitoring, and allows connection with a call centre to help illiterate grievants, by linking with MOIA’s existing facility. A mobile App for MADAD has also been developed.

In addition, Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in Gurgaon and Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) in Dubai have also been authorized to assist the grievants to lodge their grievances on this portal. As on 31 December 2015, 4793 complaints have been registered on the MADAD portal, out of which 3988 grievances have been resolved. Several new modules are being incorporated in the MADAD Portal, to enhance its utility and reach. These include:

- (i) Prisoners Module
- (ii) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) Module
- (iii) CPV Returns Module
- (iv) Students Module

In addition, a separate module for Nationality Verification is also being finalized, linking MEA, our Missions/Posts abroad and the State police authorities.

Bilateral Consular meetings

During the period, bilateral Consular Dialogues were held with Australia (21 October 2015), Brazil (21 July 2015), China (19 August 2015), Czech Republic (1 June 2015), South Africa (27 March 2015), Russia (18 November 2015), Turkmenistan (19 May 2015) and USA (3 November 2015). During the meetings, deliberations covered issues related to consular, visa and passport matters.



Launching Of MADAD by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj on 21 February 2015

Overseas Indian Affairs

India, Diaspora and Migration: An overview

India has an estimated 25 million strong Overseas Indian community. Recognizing the importance of its overseas population, the endeavor is to create an institutional framework for a sustainable and mutually beneficial engagement with its Diaspora.

The Indian Diaspora, comprising People of Indian origin and Non-Resident Indians, is the result of several waves of migration over hundreds of years due to mercantilism; recruitment of indentured labor during colonial period; guest work programs in the post colonial era; in the 20th century due to migration of Indian professionals to developed countries; semi-skilled Indian workers to the ECR countries; and Indian students pursuing higher education programmes abroad.

These migratory flows have resulted in a vast community of Indian Diaspora which includes people of Indian origin settled in East Asia, Middle-East Asia, South and Eastern Africa, Europe, North America, Australia, the northern part of South America and the Caribbean Islands. These distinct communities of people of Indian origin as well as Indian nationals living abroad constitute the vast Indian Diaspora.

In the last year the Government continued its approach of seeking renewed engagement with the Indian Diaspora abroad. Visits to foreign countries by the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs have provided opportunities for reaching out to the overseas Indian community, briefing them about ongoing development and economic initiatives and programs in India and inviting them to contribute to India's growth story. The Diaspora has shown interest and enthusiasm about the flagship programmes such as Swatch Bharat Mission; National Mission for Clean Ganga; Make in India and Start-up India etc.

Merger with MEA

With the approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was merged with the Ministry of External Affairs. The merger of the two Ministries will be completed in a smooth manner while ensuring minimum disruption to ongoing work pertaining to the Indian Diaspora. The merger is in line with the Government's overall objective of minimizing government and maximizing governance. This in fact is an administrative decision which is a step in the direction of good governance. It will also enable MEA to improve the implementation of various policies, schemes and programmes for the Indian Diaspora, especially the Indian workers abroad.

Engagement with the Indian Diaspora

The Ministry has been organising several events, programmes and schemes through which it reaches out to the overseas Indian community spread across the world. Special focus and attention are given to ensuing welfare and protection of vulnerable sections of the overseas Indian community, especially distressed Indian nationals and migrant workers.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

To connect India to its vast overseas Diaspora and bring their knowledge, expertise and skills on a common platform, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas - a flagship event for Diaspora engagement is organized from 7 - 9 January every year since 2003. 14 editions of PBD have been held so far.

Year	Dates	Venue
2003	9-11 January 2003	New Delhi
2004	9-11 January 2004	New Delhi
2005	7-9 January 2005	Mumbai
2006	7-9 January 2006	Hyderabad

2007	7-9 January 2007	New Delhi
2008	7-9 January 2008	New Delhi
2009	7-9 January 2009	Chennai
2010	7-9 January 2010	New Delhi
2011	7-9 January 2011	New Delhi
2012	7-9 January 2012	Jaipur
2013	7-9 January 2013	Kochi
2014	7-9 January 2014	New Delhi
2015	7-9 January 2015	Gandhinagar
2016	9 January 2016	New Delhi

To reenergise the PBD, starting this year, the PBD Convention will now be held once in two years. In the intervening years, smaller and more interactive PBD Conferences will be organised every month so that we can reach out to the Diaspora in a more interactive manner and seek their inputs on issues of concern and interest.

Accordingly the 14th PBD was held on 9 January 2016 at New Delhi as an interactive event celebrated worldwide by Indian Missions. External Affairs Minister delivered a keynote address in the presence of the Hon. Minister of State for External Affairs and Rt. Hon. Priti Patel, Minister of State for Employment of United Kingdom and distinguished guests and invitees including HOMs of major Diaspora countries based in India. EAM invited the Diaspora to participate in India's social and development process and renew their connection with their place of origin in India. Rt. Hon. Priti Patel, Minister of State for Employment of United Kingdom, who was a special guest, highlighted the contribution of Indian Diaspora in the U.K.

After the keynote address, External Affairs Minister interacted through video conference with the Indian Diaspora in London, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Port Louis and Singapore. Many India Missions observed 9 January as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and interacted with the Indian community in their respective jurisdictions.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour conferred by the Government of India on Non-Resident Indian, Person of Indian Origin or an organization or institution established and run by Non-Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin, who have made significant

contribution in any one of the following fields:

- (a) Better understanding abroad of India;
- (b) Support to India's causes and concerns in a tangible way;
- (c) Building closer links between India, the overseas Indian community and their country of residence;
- (d) Social and humanitarian causes in India or abroad;
- (e) Welfare of the local Indian community;
- (f) Philanthropic and charitable work;
- (g) Eminence in one's field or outstanding work, which has enhanced India's prestige in the country of residence; or
- (h) Eminence in skills which has enhanced India's prestige in that country (for non-professional workers).

PBSA is conferred by the President of India at the conclusion of the PBD Convention. So far, 179 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards have been awarded. The next PBS Awards will be conferred in January 2017 at the PBD Convention in India.

Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

This Ministry organizes Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (RPBD) in countries where there are large Diaspora populations, for engagement with the Diaspora who are unable to attend PBD in India. So far, nine RPBDs have been held at New York, Singapore, The Hague, Durban, Toronto, Mauritius, Sydney, London and Los Angeles.

The Ninth RPBD was held in Los Angeles during 14 - 15 November 2015 with Hon'ble Minister of State for Overseas Indian Affairs, General V.K. Singh leading the Indian delegation. The theme of the event was "Indian Diaspora - Defining a new Paradigm in India-US Relations". The event saw participation of around 1,100 persons including members of the Diaspora, state government officials, media, celebrities, etc. These included delegations from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana (headed by a Minister), Haryana, Jharkhand and Kerala.

RPBD was preceded by an Indian Diaspora Business Meet on 14 November 2015 organised by the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre. A 35 member business delegation from India, led by Director General, CII, participated in the meet and had B2B and B2G meetings. OIFC also organised three panel discussions on 14 November 2015, which were well attended.

Know India Programme

Know India Programme (KIP) seeks to familiarize Indian Diaspora youth, in the age group of 18-26 years, with developments and achievements made by the country and bringing them closer to the land of their ancestors. KIP provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations and experiences and to bond closely with contemporary India. The Ministry has conducted 34 editions of KIPs so far with participation of 1053 overseas Indian youth.

The participants are selected based on nominations received from Indian Missions/Posts abroad. They are provided hospitality and are reimbursed 90% of their economy class return airfare from their respective countries to India.

The 33rd KIP was held from 29 June- 19 July 2015 with Goa as Partner State. 38 participants from Fiji, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago attended. The 34th KIP was held from 17 August - 6 September 2015 with Punjab as Partner State. 32 participants from Canada, Fiji, France, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago attended.

Study India Programme

The Study India Programme (SIP) enables Overseas Indian youth to undergo short term courses in an Indian University to familiarize them with the history, heritage, art, culture, socio-political, economic developments etc. of India. The focus of SIP is on academic orientation and research. Cost of boarding, lodging, local transportation, course fee and 90% of cost of air-ticket by economy class is borne by Govt. of India. The 4th SIP was held from 20 January - 20 February 2016 at Symbiosis International University, Pune. 13 participants from France, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa (Durban), Sri Lanka (Kandy), Trinidad & Tobago participated.

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children

The Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) was launched in the academic year 2006-07 to provide 100 scholarships upto US \$ 4000 per annum to PIO and NRI students for undergraduate courses in Engineering/ Technology, Humanities/ Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry etc. The scheme is being implemented by Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) and is open to NRIs/PIOs/OCIs from 40 countries with substantial Indian Diaspora population. 770 candidates have availed the scholarships since inception of the scheme. As SPDC is being revised, there is a one year holiday for 2015-16. The revised scheme will be implemented after an impact assessment study.

Tracing the Roots

The Ministry is running a scheme since October 2008 “Tracing the Roots” to assist PIOs to trace their roots in India. PIOs who intend to trace their roots in India apply in a prescribed Form, through the Indian Mission/Post in the country of their residence along with a fee of Rs.30,000. The traced details of roots in India, i.e., name of close surviving relative(s); place of origin of their forefathers (paternal and maternal side); and a possible family tree, are made available to the applicant. In case the attempt is not successful, the Indian Mission is authorized to refund Rs.20,000 to the applicant.

Bharat ko Janiye Quiz

During the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) January 2015, Hon’ble Prime Minister announced that an Online Quiz titled ‘Bharat Ko Janiye’ would be held to enhance awareness about India among the Diaspora children and youth. The quiz was launched by this Ministry with enthusiastic participation of the Indian Diaspora youth. The qualifying round concluded on 14 December 2015. 10 finalists each from NRI/ PIO category will be invited to attend the final round in New Delhi. Three winners each from NRI/ PIO category will be awarded medals and certificates. All finalists will be taken for a Bharat Ko Janiye Yatra to familiarise them with the history, culture, economy and other aspects of India.

Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra

To commemorate evolution and achievements of Indian Diaspora, Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) is being established at Chankayapuri, New Delhi, at an estimated cost of Rs.95 crore. The National Building Construction Corporation has been appointed turnkey Consultant and Project Manager. The Kendra, over time, is expected to become the focal point for interaction - social, cultural and economic - with and among all Overseas Indians. It will also serve as a research and documentation centre and host a permanent exhibition.

The Kendra would, among others, have a library/research Centre; meeting rooms; an Indian Cultural Centre; a 350-seater auditorium; a permanent exhibition space; fully serviced guest rooms; a banquet Hall; and a restaurant. The project started on 1 May 2011 and is expected to be completed in 2016.

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card Scheme

Keeping in view Government's deep commitment of engaging Persons of Indian Origin with their place of origin, the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was launched in August 2005 by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955. The OCI Scheme is operated by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Scheme provides for registration as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) of all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on or after 26 January 1950 or were eligible to become citizens of India on 26 January 1950 and who are citizens of other countries, except Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Scheme provides for the issue of OCI documents consisting of OCI registration certificate and universal visa sticker to PIOs. The Scheme has been operational since January 2006. By the end of January 2016, more than 20 lakh PIOs had been registered as OCIs.

A registered Overseas Citizen of India is granted multiple entry, multi-purpose, life-long visa for visiting India, and is exempted from registration with Foreigners Regional Registration Office for any length of stay in India. Other benefits available to the OCI cardholders include: Parity with Non-Resident Indians in inter-country adoption of Indian children; in matters of tariffs in domestic airfares; and practicing as chartered accountants subject to conditions

mentioned in the Scheme for enrolment of OCI Professional Accountants notified on 22 July 2014 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. However, OCI is not 'Dual Nationality'.

OCI does not confer political rights. Detailed instructions and procedures concerning the OCI Scheme are available in MHA's website. An on-line OCI miscellaneous service is now available for issuance of duplicate OCI documents, in case of issuance of new passports, change of personal particulars, such as nationality, name, change of address/occupation etc. and loss/damage of OCI registration certificate/visa.

A Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015 has been passed by Parliament on 10 March 2015 by which existing PIO card holders will be deemed to be OCI card holders with effect from 6 January 2015. The amendment makes the foreign national minor children of NRIs and foreign spouse of NRI/ OCI card holder eligible for OCI card. Besides, Indian origin persons upto 4th generation have been approved for OCI registration.

Voting Rights for NRIs

The Representation of Peoples Amendment Act, 2010 was passed conferring voting rights on overseas Indian passport holders. A notification dated 3 February 2011 was issued allowing overseas electors' names to be included in the roll pertaining to the locality in which their place of residence in India as mentioned in their passport is located. Overseas electors are required to apply in the prescribed form to the concerned registration officer. The rules allow self-attestation of documents by the applicants. The Election Commission of India has initiated a process to allow overseas electors to exercise their franchise from their overseas locations through electronic ballot paper.

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) is a not-for-profit Trust established to enable overseas Indians to engage in social and development projects in India. The Trust is exempt from provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010.

IDF-OI is administered by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs. Other Board members are prominent Overseas Indians and eminent Indians who have

an active interest in philanthropy; senior Government of India officials from Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Finance and NITI Aayog.

The Board of Trustees of IDF-OI which met twice in May and December 2015 respectively, gave a new mandate to IDF-OI under which IDF OI is now channelizing contributions from Overseas Indians towards Government's flagship programmes - National Mission for Clean Ganga; Swachh Bharat Mission, and social and development projects of by State Governments.

IDF-OI held an outreach in UAE on 15-16 October, 2015 led by Secretary, MOIA and Vice Chairman, IDF-OI and invited the Indian community to give back to India through IDF-OI. IDF-OI participated at the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Los Angeles, USA on 14-15 November 2015 and made a presentation on 15 November 2015.

Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre

Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) is a not-for-profit Trust set-up by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) in 2007, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), to promote economic & knowledge engagement of Indian Diaspora with India. Backed by a network of State Governments & domain experts as its partners, OIFC provides to overseas Indians business and investment related information; organises Diaspora engagement meets; and B2B and B2G meetings. OIFC is governed by a Council of prominent Overseas Indians, senior policy makers from Government and industry leaders.

To enable proactive and sustained engagement with Indian Diaspora, especially young Overseas Indians OIFC has launched the following India Connect initiatives & programmes:

- **Business Connect:** To facilitate visits to India by business delegations led by Overseas Indians & to connect them with business partners & stakeholders in India.
- **India Corporate Internships:** More than 60 short-term internships in 23 Indian corporates from Summer 2016 to offer an opportunity to students of Indian origin/descent pursuing Post Graduate programmes

in Management, Engineering, Science & Technology in foreign universities.

- **India Fellows Programme:** Offers from summer 2016 a tailor made year-long engagement for young Diaspora entrepreneurs, in association with Indian School of Business on 'How to do business in India'.
- **Indian Diaspora Business Meet, 17 October 2015 in Dubai, UAE:** A 16 member business delegation from India under the aegis of OIFC participated in a business Roundtable with Indian-origin/NRI businessmen and investors.

On 14-15 November, 2015, Los Angeles, USA as part of the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Los Angeles, OIFC led a 31 Member Business Delegation from India, including State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala & Telangana which participated in three panel discussions; B2B and B2G meetings with the Indian origin business and investor community.

TRENDS IN EMIGRATION

During 2015, about **7.81 lakh** workers emigrated from India after obtaining emigration clearance. Out of this, about **3.06 lakh** went to Saudi Arabia, about **2.25 lakh** workers to UAE, about **0.59 Lakhs** to Qatar, about **0.85 lakhs** to Oman, and about **0.21 lakhs to Malaysia**. States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kerala, were the leading sourcing states in order of the numbers who emigrated.

Workers emigrated (In lakh)

		Year-2015
1	Saudi Arabia	3.06
2	UAE	2.25
3	Qatar	0.59
4	Oman	0.85
5	Malaysia	0.21
6	Others	0.85
	Total	7.81

The year wise status of emigration clearances granted by offices of the Protectors of Emigrants is as under.

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of Emigration Clearances (EC) granted by PoE Offices (in lakhs)	6.41	6.27	7.47	8.17	8.05	7.81

Overseas Employment of Indian Nationals

The Emigration Act, 1983, which came into effect from 30 December 1983 embodies the guidelines enunciated by the Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 20 March 1979 (Kanga Vs. Union of Indian & Others) and provides a regulatory framework in respect of safe emigration of Indian workers for overseas employment and seeks to safeguard their interests, and ensure their protection and welfare.

Operational matters relating to emigration, provision of emigration services to emigrants and enforcement of Emigration Act, 1983 are administered by the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) through 10 Regional Protector of Emigrants (PoE) offices. The PGE is a statutory authority under the Emigration Act who is responsible for the welfare and protection of emigrant workers who fall in the ECR category.

Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) administers the Emigration Act, 1983. He oversees the field offices of the Protectors of Emigrants located at Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Rae Bareli and Thiruvananthapuram. The Rae Bareli office was opened in 2013.

e-Migrate: An e-Governance Project

e-Migrate is an e-Governance project which facilitates emigration of ECR category of emigrants going to notified countries for employment purpose. Through an online portal eMigrate enables streamlined and efficient emigration which is integrated with Passport Seva Project (PSP) for validation of passport details of ECR category workers being registered. It provides a comprehensive and online database of emigrants, Missions, Recruiting Agents, Foreign Employers, and Insurance Agencies.

The Emigration Act, 1983 (Section 10) requires that those

who wish to recruit Indian citizens for employment abroad shall register themselves with the registering authority, i.e., the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE). The fee prescribed under Rule (7) (2) for registration is Rs.25,000/-. Initially, the Registration Certificate (RC) is valid for a period of five years. The form for applying for registration as recruiting agent may be obtained, free of charge which may be accessed at emigrate.gov.in. The applicant is required to deposit Bank Guarantee for an amount of Rs. Fifty lakhs on being found eligible for grant of Registration Certificate (RC). The Bank Guarantee to be submitted for issue of RC and its renewal has been increased to Rs. 50.00 lakhs from Rs 20.00 lakhs on the recommendations of Consultative Committee of Parliament of Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

Enforcement and Grievance Redressal

Complaints are received about exploitation of overseas Indian workers about non-payment/ delayed payment of wages, unilateral changes in the contract of workers, changing jobs arbitrarily etc. In such cases PGE asks concerned Recruiting Agent (if the worker was recruited through RAs) to get the workers repatriated at his expense. If the RA fails to do so, action is taken to suspend/cancel his registration and forfeit his Bank Guarantee to pay for repatriation expenses. Indian Missions and Consulates abroad also address such issues by taking up the complaints with the concerned foreign employer/sponsor or the foreign government.

Protection and Welfare of Emigrants

Of all emigrant workers, housemaids and unskilled workers are the most vulnerable categories. To avoid their exploitation, the following measures have been taken:

- Age restriction of 30 years has been made mandatory in respect of all women emigrants emigrating on ECR passports to ECR countries irrespective of nature/category of employment;
- Foreign Employer should deposit a security deposit of \$2500 if he recruits the worker directly.
- Embassy attestation has been made mandatory in respect of all women and unskilled category workers in respect of all ECR countries;

- (d) Under the Emigration (Amendment) Rules, the Recruiting Agents have been entrusted with specific duties and responsibilities with a view to safeguard the interests of the emigrant worker. They will also have to maintain certain basic facilities.
- (e) Specific duties of the foreign employers have been laid down under the Rules with a view to safeguard the interests of the emigrants.
- (f) With effect from June 2015, registration of foreign employers in the e-migrate system has been made mandatory.

Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojna (PBBY)

Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana is an insurance scheme introduced by the Ministry with coverage and benefits under the PBBY Policy 2008 as under:

- (i) Maximum sum for which insured under the PBBY: Rs.10.00 lakhs
- (ii) Hospitalization (Medical Expenses) covering injuries / sickness / ailment / diseases: Rs.75,000/-
- (iii) Repatriation covers for medically unfit: Actual one-way economy class air fare.
- (iv) Family Hospitalization in India: Rs. 50,000/-
- (v) Maternity: Rs. 25,000/-
- (vi) Attendant: Actual One way economy class air fare.
- (vii) Legal expenses: Rs. 30,000/-

Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY)

Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) is a specially designed social security scheme for unskilled and semi-skilled Overseas Indian workers, with ECR passports working in ECR countries. MGPSY encourages and enables overseas Indian workers to make co-contribution to:

- (a) Save for their return and resettlement in India
- (b) Save for their pension
- (c) Obtain complimentary life insurance cover during the period of overseas employment.

MGPSY offers three existing schemes in market, namely:

- (a) National Pension Scheme (NPS)-Lite(NPS lite has been discontinued and replaced with Atal Pension Yojana (APY) launched on 1st June, 2015.)
- (b) UTI's Monthly Income Scheme (Mutual Fund)and
- (c) LIC of India's Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY)

Bilateral Memoranda of Understanding on Labour

To ensure better protection and welfare of Indian emigrants MoUs were signed with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia, and Bahrain.

Regular meetings of JWG enable review and resolution of labour issues arising from time to time. The 3rd JWG with Qatar was held from 17-18 August 2015. The 2nd JWG with Bahrain was held during 15-16 April 2015. 2nd JWG with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was held during 12-13 October 2015.

Welfare and Protection of Indian Nationals Abroad

Indian Community Welfare Fund

Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) was set up in Indian Missions/Posts to enable Missions to meet contingency expenditure incurred by them for on-site welfare activities for Overseas Indian Citizens in distress on a means-tested basis. ICWF enables provision of boarding & lodging for distressed Overseas Indian workers in household/domestic sectors & unskilled labourers, emergency medical care, initial legal help, air passage to stranded Overseas Indians (OI), incidentals & airlifting of mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of deceased OIs, penalties for illegal stay of OIs in host country where worker is not at fault, small fines/penalties for release of OIs in jail/detention center, etc.

Repatriation of Stranded Indians

The evacuation and repatriation of nearly 4012 Indian nationals from Yemen was carried out during March-April 2015. The massive and well-coordinated repatriation operation was appreciated especially for the Government's swift and proactive response in bringing the Indian nationals back to India.

ICWF also enabled search and retrieval of remains of Shri Malli Mastan Babu, an Indian Mountaineer who was lost in the mountain ranges between Chile and Argentina. From Seychelles 19 Indian fishermen were repatriated to India.

Overseas Workers Resource Centre

To empower emigrants and intending emigrants with information and to educate them about requirements to obtain a legitimate work permit/visa for employment abroad, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs established an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in 2008 to provide information to intending migrants and overseas workers on all aspects of overseas employment.

OWRC disseminates information on matters relating to emigration; registers, and responds to complaints pertaining to overseas employment and other problems faced by Indian nationals abroad.

OWRC operates a toll free 24 hour helpline (1800 11 3090) on all days of the year in 11 languages (Hindi, English, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Bengali, Gujarati, Odiya, Marathi and Punjabi) to provide need-based information to emigrants and their families. Workers can access the helpline from anywhere in the world at 91-11-40503090. In 2015, OWRC received 62,175 calls from intending migrants and distressed Indian nationals.

Migrant Resource Centres

Ministry has set-up Migrant Resource Centres (MRC) as walk-in counselling centres located in major Diaspora sending states to provide to intending migrants and overseas Indian workers, information, guidance, advise and counselling on all aspects of overseas employment including legal and regulatory requirements; documentation and procedures; policies; and problems faced while working abroad etc. MRCs have now been set-up in five locations, Kochi, Hyderabad, Gurgaon, Chennai and Lucknow. In June 2015, the Ministry and Government of Tamil Nadu set up a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Chennai. On 10 February 2015 MRC was inaugurated in Lucknow.

Indian Women Deserted / Divorced by their NRI spouses

The Ministry launched in 2007 a Scheme for providing

legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas spouses. It enables the aggrieved Indian women to obtain access to counseling and legal services, through Indian Women's Organisations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions/Posts abroad in USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore; and some Gulf countries.

Social Security Agreements

The Ministry negotiates Social Security Agreements with foreign governments to protect the interest of expatriate workers and the companies on a reciprocal basis. These agreements help workers by:

- Providing for exemption from social security contribution in case of short-term contracts
- Exportability of pension in case of relocation to the home country or any third country
- Totalisation of the contribution periods

Such agreements also prove beneficial for the companies, as exemption from social security contribution, in respect of their employees substantially reduces their costs.

Some important developments with regard to SSAs in 2015-16 were:

1. SSA with Norway came into effect from 1 January 2015.
2. 23-25 March 2015: Indian delegation visited Canberra, Australia for negotiation on Administrative Arrangement of SSA.
3. 4-5 June 2015: Indian delegation visited Cyprus for first round of discussions with Cyprus.
4. 1 July 2015: SSA with Austria came into force.
5. 27-29 July 2015 an Australian delegation visited India for finalization of Forms and Procedure of SSA
6. 1 August 2015: SSA with Canada came into force
7. 21 August 2015: Indian delegation visited Washington, USA for discussions with US SSA about proposed Totalisation Agreement.
8. 1 January 2016: SSA with Australia came into force.

9. 18-20 December 2015: Discussions held in India with Japan for the 7th round of negotiation to finalize Forms and Procedures for implementation SSA.

India Centre for Migration – Research think-tank

India Centre for Migration (ICM) was set-up by the Ministry as a 'not for profit' society, as a research think-tank on all matters relating to 'International Migration'. The Centre partners with individuals, institutions and governments to enhance capacities and pilot good practices in international migration and its governance.

ICM's Governing Council is headed by Secretary, MOIA, and other Members include the Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministries of External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Secretaries of three State Governments and experts dealing with migration issues.

The 5th and 6th Meetings of ICM's Governing Council were held in May and December 2015 respectively in New Delhi. The GC directed that ICM may continue to provide research and policy inputs on core issues such as a study of global labour markets; standard employment contracts for overseas employment; social security agreements; and migration of women domestic sector workers.

In 2015-16 ICM undertook studies on issues related to overseas employment, welfare and protection of migrant workers such as:

- a. Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)
- b. Preliminary report on impact assessment of Social Security Agreements (SSAs) signed by Government
- c. International conventions on labour migrants and their relevance to India
- d. Best practices in migration management by Philippines
- e. Compilation of procedures for filing of compensation claims in respect of death/injury of Indian nationals in foreign countries helped MOIA to disseminate information
- f. Indian Migrants in Myanmar: Emerging Trends & Challenges
- g. Gulf Migration, Social Remittances and Religion: The Changing dynamics of Kerala Christians

ICM participated in the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative - Southeast, South and East Asia Regional Consultation from 23-24 March 2015, and the 3rd Senior Officials Meeting of the Colombo Process (CP) in Colombo from 4-5 November 2015.

Budget and Financial Review

The Budget Estimate for the year 2015-16 for Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was approved at Rs. 118.17 crore. The detailed Budget allocation and Revised Estimates are given in **Table-A**. The broad trend in expenditure during the last five years are depicted in Bar Diagrams in **Figure A**.

Plan Scheme for Skill Development

A New Plan Scheme for Skill Development for overseas employment was launched in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) on 7th June 2013 considered and approved the Plan Scheme with the total project cost of Rs 137 crore. The Scheme has since been renamed as Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana. A financial provision of Rs. 20 crore has been allocated in the BE of 2015-16 for the scheme.

Gender Budget

A Gender Budget Cell was constituted with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To come up with specific schemes benefiting women.
- (ii) To make an assessment of the benefits reaching women through the existing programmes and schemes of the Department.
- (iii) To clearly bring out scheme-wise provisions and physical targets for benefiting women in the Performance Budget of the Department.
- (iv) To provide inputs for the Detailed Demands for Grants every Year.

Expenditure on female participants of Know India Programme (KIP) has been 51% of the total budget allocated for the programme.

Table A
Object Head Wise Plan and Non-Plan RE 2015-16 and BE 2016-17

(Rs. in Crore)									
Head	Existing Head	Budget Estimates (2015-16)		Actuals (2015-16 (Upto 31.12.2015))		Revised Estimates (2015-16)		Budget Estimates (2016-17)	
		Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
	REVENUE SECTION								
2052	Secretariat-General Services (Major Head)								
00.090	Secretariat(Minor Head)								
34	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs								
01	Establishment (Detailed Head)								
34.01.01	Salaries								
	<i>Charged</i>								
	Voted	6.10		4.77		6.10		8.00	
34.01.02	Wages	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
34.01.03	Overtime Allowance	0.03		0.00		0.03		0.04	
34.01.06	Medical Treatment	0.25		0.17		0.25		0.27	
34.01.11	Domestic Travel Expenses	1.00		0.04		0.10		0.10	
34.01.12	Foreign Travel Expenses	1.00		0.20		0.36		0.75	
34.01.13	Office Expenses								
	<i>Charged</i>								
	Voted	3.00		1.46		2.10		2.00	
34.01.14	Rents, Rates, Taxes	4.00		2.76		3.45		4.00	
34.01.16	Publications	0.25		0.01		0.01		0.05	
34.01.17	Banking Cash Transaction Tax	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
34.01.26	Advertising and Publicity	1.38		0.00		0.01		0.75	
34.01.27	Minor works	0.80		0.34		0.60		1.00	
34.01.28	Professional Services	0.17		0.08		0.17		0.25	
34.99	Information Technology								
34.99.13	Office Expenses	1.40		0.25		0.57		0.50	
	Total- Secretariat								
	<i>Charged</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Voted	19.38	0.00	10.08		13.75	0.00	17.71	0.00

(Rs. in Crore)									
Head	Existing Head	Budget Estimates (2015-16)		Actuals (2015-16 (Upto 31.12.2015))		Revised Estimates (2015-16)		Budget Estimates (2016-17)	
		Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
40	Protector General of Emigrant								
40.01	Establishment(Detailed Head)								
40.01.01	Salaries	2.70		2.04		2.90		3.70	
40.01.02	Wages	0.02		0.04		0.05		0.05	
40.01.03	Overtime Allowances	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
40.01.06	Medical Allowances	0.02		0.00		0.04		0.06	
40.01.11	Domestic Travel Expenses	0.10		0.05		0.10		0.10	
40.01.12	Foreign Travel Expenses	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
40.01.13	Office Expenses	1.50		0.61		1.00		1.00	
40.01.14	Rents, Rates, Taxes	0.62		0.56		1.27		1.30	
40.01.16	Publications	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
40.01.26	Advertising and Publicity	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
40.01.27	Minor works	0.05		0.00		0.05		0.05	
40.01.28	Professional Services	0.14		0.24		0.40		0.50	
40.99	Information Technology								
40.99.13	Office Expenses	6.15		5.04		6.05		9.00	
	Total- PGE	11.30	0.00	8.58	0.00	11.86	0.00	15.76	0.00
	<i>Charged</i>					0.00			
	Voted	11.30	0.00	8.58	0.00	11.86	0.00	15.76	0.00
00.800	Other Expenditure (Minor Head)								
07	Expenditure on Holding Seminars & Studies								
07.00.20	Other Administrative Expenses	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
	Total-Other Expenditure	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
	Total- Secretariat General Services	30.68	0.00	18.66	0.00	25.61	0.00	33.47	0.00
	Charged	0.00				0.00		0.00	
	Voted	30.68	0.00	18.66	0.00	25.61	0.00	33.47	0.00
2061	External Affairs (Major Head)								
00.104	International Conferences/ Meetings(Minor Head)								

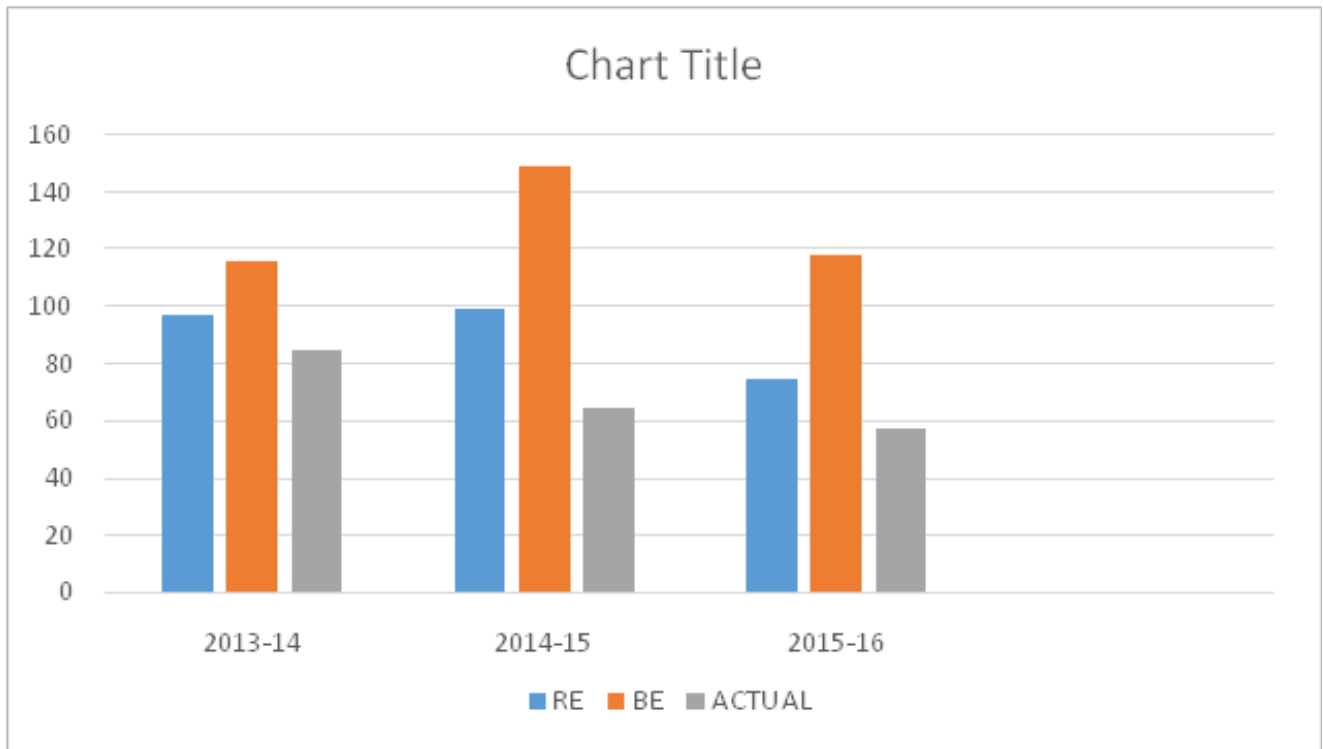
(Rs. in Crore)									
Head	Existing Head	Budget Estimates (2015-16)		Actuals (2015-16 (Upto 31.12.2015))		Revised Estimates (2015-16)		Budget Estimates (2016-17)	
		Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
01	International Conferences/ Meetings								
01.00.20	Other Administrative Expenses	0.76		0.00		0.05		0.05	
	Total-International Conferences/Meetings	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00
00.106	Entertainment Charges(Minor Head)								
01	Entertainment of Dignitaries								
01.00.20	Other Administrative Expenses	0.23		0.00		0.01		0.01	
	Total - Entertainment of Dignitaries	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
	Total - Entertainment Charges	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00
00.800	Other Expenditure (Minor Head)								
03	Other Schemes (Sub Head)								
00.03	Other Items								
03.03.31	Grant-in-aid General (Object Head)	0.76		0.00		1.00		1.00	
03.03.50	Other Charges (Object Head)	1.50		1.23		1.00		0.50	
03.04	Overseas Citizenship of India (Detailed Head)								
03.04.50	Other Charges (Object Head)	0.50		0.58		2.30		1.50	
03.05	Know India Pogramme								
03.05.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	8.00		1.23		1.94		1.50	
03.06	Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children (Detailed Head)								
03.06.50	Other Charges (Object Head)	6.50		6.47		6.50		6.00	

(Rs. in Crore)									
Head	Existing Head	Budget Estimates (2015-16)		Actuals (2015-16 (Upto 31.12.2015))		Revised Estimates (2015-16)		Budget Estimates (2016-17)	
		Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
03.07	Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora(Detailed Head)								
03.07.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	9.50		0.13		0.70		2.00	
03.08	Awareness Campaign/Media Plan(Detailed Head)								
03.08.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	9.50		0.00		1.00		5.54	
03.09	India Development Foundation(Detailed Head)								
03.09.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	0.85		0.66		0.66		1.00	
03.10	Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre(Detailed Head)								
03.10.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	1.30		0.00		0.00		1.50	
03.11	Overseas Workers Resource Centre (Detailed Head)								
03.11.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	1.20		0.63		1.19		1.30	
03.13	Labour Mobility Partnership(Detailed Head)								
03.13.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	0.04		0.00		0.00		0.01	
03.20	Pre-Departure Orientation and Skill upgration of Emigrant Worker (Detailed Head)								
03.20.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	0.50		0.00		0.00		0.01	
03.22	Overseas Indian Centers (Detailed Head)								
03.22.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	3.69		3.01		3.69		3.20	
03.24	Indian Council of Overseas Employment(Detailed Head)								
03.24.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	3.04		0.00		0.00		0.10	
03.25	Legal Assistance to Women facing problems in NRI Marriages(Detailed Head)								
03.25.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	0.10		0.00		0.27		0.25	

(Rs. in Crore)									
Head	Existing Head	Budget Estimates (2015-16)		Actuals (2015-16 (Upto 31.12.2015))		Revised Estimates (2015-16)		Budget Estimates (2016-17)	
		Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
03.30	SwarnapravasYojana								
03.30.50	Other Charges(Object Head)	0.00	20.00	0.00	1.27		3.00	0.00	(SPA)
	Total-Other Schemes	46.98	13.94	20.00	1.27	20.25	3.00	25.41	0.00
15	Celebration of PravasiBharatiya Divas								
15.00.50	Other Charges	7.53		12.21		13.33		5.00	
	Total - Other Expenditure	54.51	20.00	26.15	1.27	33.58	3.00	30.41	
	Total - External Affairs (Major Head)	55.50	20.00	26.15	1.27	33.64	3.00	30.47	0.00
	<i>Charged</i>					0.00			
	Voted	55.50	20.00	26.15	1.27	33.64		30.47	
	Total - Revenue Section	86.18	20.00	44.81	1.27	59.25	3.00	63.94	0.00
	<i>Charged</i>					0.00			
	Voted	86.18	20.00	44.81	1.27	59.25		63.94	0.00
	CAPITAL SECTION								
4059	Capital Outlay On Public Works: (Major Head)								
60	Other Buildings (Sub Major Head)								
60.051	Construction (Minor Head)								
23	PravasiBharatiya Kendra								
23.00.53	Major Works	12.00		11.75		12.00		7.50	
24	Construction /Purchase of Buildidngs for PGE/POEs								
24.00	Major Works								
24.00.53	Major Works	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
	Total - Capital Outlay On Public Works	12.00	0.00	11.75	0.00	12.00	0.00	7.50	0.00
	Total - Capital Section	12.00	0.00	11.75	0.00	12.00	0.00	7.50	0.00
	Total - Grant No.70	98.18	20.00	56.56	1.27	71.25	3.00	71.44	0.00
	<i>Charged</i>	0.00				0.00		0.00	
	Voted	98.18	20.00	56.56	1.27	71.25	3.00	71.44	0.00

FIGURE -A

Object Head-wise Plan and Non-Plan RE 2015-16 and BE 2016-17



Administration Division continues to strive for optimal utilization of manpower resources to meet the requirements of the Ministry both at Headquarters and in 183 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. To achieve these objectives, the Division oversees cadre management exercises which involve recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations and career progression among others. In addition, the Division also deals with formation, amendments and reforms of all the relevant rules and regulations relating to personnel. The Division also obtains approval for setting up new Missions/Posts abroad.

As a part of its initiative to adopt and evolve best practices for good governance, Ministry has developed MEA e-SamikSha- a digital platform that allows for real-time collation of information on various policy decisions taken in the Ministry from time to time and acts as an online interface between Headquarters and the Missions/Posts. In order to optimally utilize available human resource, Biometric Attendance system has been put in place in the Ministry's offices in Delhi and in the affiliated offices of the Ministry outside Delhi.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4054 (Appendix IX). Personnel posted against these posts are deployed in India and in 183 Missions/posts abroad. This includes officials from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service, Branch 'B' (IFS 'B'), Interpreters Cadre, Legal and Treaties Cadre and Library Cadre, but excludes Group 'D' and ex-cadre posts.

Recruitments were made to various groups in the Ministry from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 through Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotions (DP), and Limited Departmental Examination (LDE). (Appendix X)

Ministry of External Affairs, having 183 Missions/Posts spread across the world, attaches much attention to training

and development of linguistic skills of its officers. Over a period of time, this has resulted in the creation of sufficiently large and diverse pool of those with foreign language skills within the Service, enabling officers to discharge their diplomatic responsibility more effectively. (Appendix XI)

The Ministry continues its policy of ensuring adequate opportunity to persons with disability and to have suitable representation of persons with disability among its personnel in line with GOI rules.

Vigilance Unit

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 27 October 2015 to 01 November 2015 on the topic "Preventive Vigilance as a Tool of Good Governance". All Indian Missions/Posts abroad and various departments in the Ministry of External Affairs administered the pledge prescribed by the Central Vigilance Commission.

The Ministry has an online filing facility of Vigilance case on the Ministry's portal. Vigilance complaint pertaining to the Ministry, diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad, Passport Offices in India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Research and Information System, Indian Council for World Affairs can be filed through this online system.

Ministry of External Affairs has w.e.f. 01 January 2013 introduced signing of a Pre-contract Integrity Pact between the Ministry and the prospective bidders/sellers for all procurements/projects of the value of 50 crores and above. This would be applicable to all attached/subordinate offices and autonomous bodies of the Ministry including Foreign Service Institute, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and Indian Council of World Affairs.

The Integrity Pact would be implemented through a panel of two Independent External Monitors (IEMs) to be appointed by the Ministry in consultation with the Central Vigilance

Commission. Eminent persons of high integrity and reputation would be appointed as IEM by the Ministry.

The details of cases handled by Vigilance Unit of CNV Division in the Ministry for the year 2015-16 are as under:

No. of cases pending as on 31 March 2015	:	83
No. of cases received for examination during the period 01 April 2015 to 31 December 2015	:	55
Total number of cases as on 31 December 2015	:	138
Number of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty during the period from 01 April 2015 to 31 December 2015	:	5
No. of cases closed without penalty, on account of death, VRS etc. during the period from 01 April 2015 to 31 December 2015	:	37
Total of cases closed during the period 01 April 2015 to 31 December 2015	:	42
No. of cases pending as on 31 December 2015	:	96

Welfare

Welfare Division looks after general welfare of all employees of Ministry of External Affairs. During the on going year, we lost 08 employees of the Ministry of External Affairs for whom all assistance was rendered by the Division and ex-gratia payment from Staff Benefit Fund was provided. External Affairs Spouses Association (EASA) also provided 09 scholarships to the affected children through Welfare Division.

This year 61 wards were accorded admission to Engineering courses. The selection of candidates for Engineering seats was done in a transparent and time-bound manner and for the first time the relevant details were circulated via MEA interanet. One ward of MEA official was also accorded admission to MBBS course.

53 children were accorded admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas against the 60 seats allotted by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Long pending recruitments on compassionate grounds against 08 post of MTS and one post of LDC were undertaken during this year.

Fund raising campaign was organised by the Welfare Division for Communal Harmony and Armed Forces Flag Day. Assistance to two Indian Missions/Posts abroad to set up recreational clubs was also provided. In addition, Welfare

Division carried out routine matters pertaining to assistance to officers and members of staff returning from Missions to Headquarters in various public/private schools, getting gas connections, ration cards, telephone connections etc. as also necessary assistance required in medical emergencies, whether for those coming from Missions abroad or working at HQ.

The Division regularly chaired the meetings with various Staff Associations to understand and address their grievances.

Establishment

Establishment Division looks after the maintenance and upkeep of offices and residential complexes of the Ministry; allotment of office space and housing; and purchase and supply of furniture and office equipment for Ministry's offices. It also processes matters relating to allowances and special grants for officials posted in Missions and Posts abroad; purchase and supply of special procurement items and official vehicles; as well as renting of Chancery and residential accommodation for our Missions and Posts abroad.

In a recent survey conducted by CPWD in July 2015, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan was rated as the best office building and topped the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) ratings among the 49 government buildings in the capital that were screened for overall cleanliness. Efforts are ongoing to enhance the eco-friendly nature of the building and to further develop its landscape.

Living conditions at Ministry's housing complexes at Chanakyapuri, KG Marg, Gole Market and Dwarka were upgraded through provision of additional facilities with regard to maintenance, landscaping and gardening. Civil work for improving the overall condition of the KG Marg and Gole Market residential complexes have been completed.

In pursuance of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aimed at highlighting the need for officials to pay due attention to cleanliness as well as to be personally involved in fostering clean surroundings, several steps were undertaken in the Ministry as well as in our Missions and Posts abroad during the last one year. All Indian Missions/Posts abroad also overwhelmingly participated in cleanliness drive to ensure enhanced level of cleanliness with a special focus on representational areas and visitors rooms, waiting lobbies,

etc. A positive behavioural change has been observed among government servants regarding healthy sanitation practices.

Projects

Apart from the successful completion of the Torana Gate Project, during the period of the report, the Division continued to process acquisition proposals with proposals for acquisitions in Seoul, Tel Aviv and Vancouver. The Division continued to follow up the acquisition proposals in Jeddah and Kabul which are on the finalisation stage awaiting the final clearance from the respective Foreign offices. Progress was also made towards construction projects on plots acquired in Male' and Bangkok.

The Renovation project in Sydney Chancery was completed and the Chancery occupied in May 2015. Major renovation projects at Kuala Lumpur, Dublin, Colombo, Cultural Centre in Paris and Cultural Wing in Embassy of India, Washington are at various stages ranging from appointment of Consultant and preparation of architectural drawings to actual ongoing renovation.

The Division continued to closely monitor the progress

of various constructions/ re-development projects with the objective to ensure their timely commencement/completion. Amongst projects abroad, construction and redevelopment work for the Chancery and /or residences at Addis Ababa, Bahrain, Belgrade, Bangkok, Berlin, Brunei, Canberra, Dar-es-Salaam, Dhaka, Doha, Islamabad, Gaborone, Jakarta, Kabul, Kathmandu, Khartoum, London, Male, Moscow, Nicosia, Port Louis (Chancery and World Hindi Secretariat), Port of Spain, Santiago, Shanghai, Singapore (redevelopment of two plots), Tashkent, Warsaw, Wellington, Kuala Lumpur, Dublin and Colombo and Paris are in various stages of implementation during the period of the report ranging from appointment of consultant and preparation of architectural drawings to actual ongoing construction/ renovation.

Through concerted efforts, the Division has been able to award the Consultation/design selection in Shanghai and construction works of the Chancery and Residences for High Commission of Dar-es-Salaam and in Bahrain are on course to completion on time.

The Division also made substantial progress towards launch of a Global Estate Management portal.



Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

During the year 2015, the Ministry continued to make efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005. In keeping with instructions of Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) on suo-motu disclosure, uploading of RTI applications/appeals/responses & monthly RTI figures on public domain has been implemented. The system of online acceptance & disposal of RTI applications has been implemented in all 183 Missions/Posts abroad by aligning them with the RTI web portal with effect from 17 August 2015.

A total of 2825 applications seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 were received in the Ministry during the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015 and have been disposed of satisfactorily. Applications in general covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, Haj pilgrimage, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the

same. Consular, Passport & Visa (CPV) Division, Missions and Posts abroad, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Indian Council for World Affairs maintain their own records as independent public authorities under the Act.

Interactive sessions with an expert on the RTI Act, 2005 were organized for the officers and the staff of the Ministry at periodic intervals to promote a better understanding of the provisions of the Act and to enable the Chief Public Information Officers (CPIOs) to handle the applications more efficiently.

All Central Information Commission (CIC) hearings have been attended to by the CPIOs concerned and a representative of the RTI Cell and the Ministry has received no adverse ruling/remarks from the CIC. Quarterly returns have been filed with CIC as required, on schedule.

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E-Governance and Information Technology

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E-Governance and Information Technology Division (EG&IT) provides IT related support to the Ministry for procurement, maintenance and upkeep of IT Infrastructure in Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad. EG&IT Division is also supporting the Ministry for implementation of various e-Governance applications at Headquarters & Missions/Posts abroad by carrying out system studies, development, testing and maintenance of e-governance applications in coordination with NIC and DeitY.

EG&IT Division is taking steps to implement the different components of Digital India Programme in the Ministry and all Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Four Mission Mode Projects of e-Kranti (4th pillar of Digital India Programme) namely e-Office, e-Procurement, IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration, Tracking) and Passport Seva Projects (PSP), are presently operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. e-Office software has already been implemented in various Divisions of the Ministry. The training for e-Office is also being imparted in the Ministry. E-Procurement application has been implemented in the Ministry in March 2013 with an aim to make Government procurements in the Ministry more transparent and efficient. Online invitation of bids (e-tendering process) has also been implemented in the Ministry since 1 April 2015 for all tendering processes worth Rs. 5 lakh and above. Ministry's e-services such as Passport and online visa services have been integrated with e-Migrate, e-Taal (Electronic Transaction and Aggregation Layer) and Aadhar/UIDAI. Online visa component of the IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration & Tracking), spear-headed by the Ministry of Home Affairs has been operationalised at 163 Indian Missions/Posts, whereas biometric enrolment has been implemented at 76 Missions/Posts.

The e-Governance application, MEA e-Samiksha, a real-time online system for monitoring of follow up action on the

decisions taken by the Ministry at various levels, has been implemented at Headquarters and all Indian Missions/Posts abroad since March 2015. The other e-Governance applications such as AEBAS (Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System), e-Visitor and PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) have also been implemented in the Ministry. Comp DDO software for Ministry employees posted at headquarters and Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS) for all Missions/Posts abroad have been implemented in the Ministry since 2005. This has led to uniformity in the accounting method in Ministry and at all 180 Missions/Posts abroad. Next version of IMAS software, which is e web-based is under development in the Ministry.

The online e-political clearance portal (<http://epolclearance.gov.in>) was launched by Foreign Secretary on 31 December 2015 on pilot basis. This system facilitates online submission of applications for political clearance, provides facility to upload supporting documents by the applicants, forwards online applications to the concerned Divisions and after processing by the Divisions, generates political clearances, which will be sent directly to the applicants by the system from a single point. This online portal has been developed by EG&IT Division, Ministry of External Affairs, and is being hosted on GI Cloud coordinated by NIC. The portal went live from 1 January 2016.

Ministry continued to alert users regarding cyber security threats in the form of email containing links to phishing sites and malware attachments. In view of the growing incidence of cyber security threats there is special emphasis on cyber security training to the Ministry's officers and staff at Headquarters and officers going on posting abroad.



Parliament and Coordination Division

Parliament Division

Parliament Division is Ministry's interface with Parliament and the nodal point of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for all Parliament-related work. The work includes liaison with all Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs with regard to replies for Parliament Questions, fulfillment of Parliamentary Assurances, Calling Attention Notices and Motions, Suo-motu statements, debates/Short Duration Discussions on foreign policy, legislative business, laying of reports and documents in the Parliament, etc. Prior to the commencement of Parliament Session, the Section also compiles briefs on important issues likely to be raised in Parliament during the forthcoming session for Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The Division also coordinates meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs and work related to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and MEA's interaction with other Parliamentary Committees.

Meetings of the Consultative Committee:

External Affairs Minister (EAM) chaired four meetings of the Consultative Committee for External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs in 2015:

- (a) The first meeting was held on 15 June 2015. Discussions were held on Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) agenda items related to overseas employment recruitment by State Government agencies, present system of appointing recruitment agencies for overseas employment and MEA's agenda item on problems faced by Indian workers in Gulf countries and welfare measures.
- (b) The second meeting was held on 08 October 2015 on the subject 'Issues concerning Overseas Employment and Role of Recruiting Agents'.
- (c) The third meeting of 2015 of the Consultative Committee was held on 02 November 2015 on the agenda item "Outcome of Prime Minister's recent visits abroad: Russia and Central Asian Countries, UAE, Ireland, UN and USA"; and
- (d) The fourth meeting was held on 21 November 2015 on the agenda item "Situation in Nepal".

Sittings of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:

The following meetings of the Ministry were held with the Standing Committee on External Affairs during the period April-November 2015:

(a) Oral Briefings:

- (i) An oral briefing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 12 May 2015 by Foreign Secretary on India's relations with Pakistan and India's role and engagement with Afghanistan post 2014.
- (ii) An oral briefing of the Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 30 July 2015 on the subject "Performance of Passport Issuance System and Implementation of e-Passport Project for Indian Citizens." Foreign Secretary led the delegation.
- (iii) An Oral Briefing by MEA of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 05 November 2015 on the

subject “India’s commitments regarding UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Targets”. GoI delegation was led by Foreign Secretary and included senior representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- (iv) The Standing Committee on External Affairs held a briefing meeting on 29 December 2015 on the subject “Recent developments in Nepal and its implications for India”.

(b) Oral Evidence:

- (i) Foreign Secretary presented oral evidence before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on 18 June 2015 on the subject “Recruitment, structure and capacity-building of IFS Cadre, including need for a separate Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination for the cadre, mid-career entry and in-service training and orientation”.
- (ii) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs took Oral Evidence of the representatives of MEA and Department of Personnel and training (DoPT) on 16 December 2015 on the subject “Recruitment structure and capacity-building of IFS Cadre, including need for a separate UPSC examination for cadre, mid-career entry and in-service training and orientation. This was the fourth meeting held by the Committee on this subject.

Meetings of other Committees of Parliament:

The following hearings of the representatives of the Ministry were held with other Parliamentary Committees during the period April-November 2015:

- (a) The Ministry gave oral evidence before the Sub-Committee-V of the Public Accounts Committee (2014-15) in its sitting on 23 April 2015 on the subjects selected by the Committee from Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG)’s Report No.9 of 2010-11 pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs. MEA was represented by Additional Secretary (AD).

- (b) A hearing of the MEA was held with the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of Rajya Sabha on 01 June 2015 on the status of framing of Rules/Regulations under Acts of Parliament administered by MEA with special reference to the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001, Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005 and the Nalanda University Act, 2010. Foreign Secretary led the delegation.
- (c) The Committee on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha took oral evidence of the representatives of MEA regarding pending assurances from 3rd Session of 13th Lok Sabha to 3rd Session of 16th Lok Sabha on 21 July and 31 August 2015. Foreign Secretary led the Ministry’s delegation.
- (d) The Public Accounts Committee took further evidence of the representatives of MEA on 19 August 2015 in connection with the examination of the subject ‘Performance Audit of Global Estate Management by the Ministry of External Affairs’ based on the C&AG Report No. 16 of 2014, Union Government’.
- (e) A hearing of the MEA was held with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on 28 September 2015 in connection with examination of the subject, ‘Role of Ministry of Law and Justice in Framing/Approving the Provisions of International Covenants/ Multilateral/Bilateral Treaties or Agreements’. MEA delegation was led by Additional Secretary (AD).

During the Budget session 2015 of the Parliament, MEA successfully piloted the Bill related to India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement – referred to as the Constitution (100th Amendment) Bill, 2015. The Bill was considered and passed in the Rajya Sabha on 6 May & 11 May 2015 and in the Lok Sabha on 7 May 2015.

Coordination Division

The Coordination Division processes all proposals for the grant of no objection from the Political angle, for the foreign visits of Governors, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislative Assemblies,

Members of Judiciary, Government officials etc. Political clearance is accorded by the Ministry of External Affairs after taking into consideration the guidelines laid down by the Government for the purpose from time to time, the political and functional justification for the visit, meetings arranged, and the recommendation of the Indian Missions / Posts concerned. During April 2015-January 2016, the Coordination Section issued 1966 political clearances for such visits.

The Division also handles work relating to the grant of diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled Military flights and visit by foreign naval ships. During April 2015-January 2016, the Section issued 416 clearances for foreign non-scheduled Military flights and 46 clearances for visits of foreign naval ships.

The Coordination Division processed approvals for the participation of Indian Sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad, and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to January 2016.

The Division also examines requests for grant of no objection for holding international conferences, seminars, workshops etc, grant of Amateur W/T Licence under the Indian Telegraph Act (1885), clearances for Name/Emblem registration and grant in aid to Indo-foreign cultural friendship and cultural societies, located in foreign countries. During April 2015-January 2016, the Division issued clearances for 710 conferences/seminars etc in India. In addition, 88 requests for incoming visits of foreign scholars for training / research were processed.

The Coordination Division coordinates the work relating to the grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals. The nominations are obtained by the Coordination Division from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the recommendations of the Ministry are conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), Sadhbhavana Diwas (20 August), Quami Ekta Week (19-25 November), and Constitution Day (26 November) in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad are also undertaken by the Coordination Section.

Coordination Division also coordinated Ministry's participation in PM's monthly PRAGATI Video-Conferences on grievance redressal and review of programmes and projects. It also coordinated Ministry's responses for the

Cabinet Secretariat's e-Samiksha web-site. Coordination Division also processed Ministry's inputs on draft Cabinet notes and parliament related work where inputs from several divisions in the Ministry were required to be collated.

Education

The Education Section deals with the selection, nomination, and admission of foreign students in respect of applications solicited from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries, for Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), B.Engineering, B.Pharmacy courses, in various Central Institutions/colleges in India, under the Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Cases of Political Clearances in respect of foreign students already studying in India in Govt. institutions for Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and other technical and professional courses, including elective training/observership/research are also processed when approached by the nodal Ministries of the Govt. of India.

Details of applications in respect of foreign nationals received/processed in Education Section for selection for nominated seats during the period April-November 2015 are given below:

- i) 58 applications were received from Missions/posts for nomination/selection in respect of 33 MBBS seats and 2 applications were received for nomination/selection for 2 BDS seats.
- ii) 87 applications were received for nomination/selection in respect of B.Engineering seats and five applications for B.Pharmacy seats.
- iii) 17 applications were received for nomination/selection in respect of 5 seats for PG medical courses at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

During the period April-November 2015, 290 cases of political clearances for foreign students/nationals were handled by the Section for their elective training/observership/research/ appearing in examination etc.



External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division

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A year of transformational diplomacy of the Government was reflected through the various activities of the External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division (XPD). The Division continued to effectively articulate India's position on issues of foreign policy and international affairs in line with its stated mandate. This was achieved through facilitation of press coverage of VVIP visits, regular and special briefings for the media, timely issue of press statements and communiqués as well as familiarisation visits for Indian and foreign journalists. The Division has ramped up its public diplomacy initiatives especially through various social media platforms, as well as through the commissioning of films on unique aspects of the 'India story' and publications. These efforts have played a critical role in creating awareness of the Ministry and the Government's foreign policy as proactive and effective, leading to tangible outcomes while increasing India's stature in the world.

Press Coverage

XPD Division made logistical arrangements, including setting up and operating fully equipped Media Centres, organising media briefings and facilitation of the media accompanying the President, the Vice President, the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister on their visits abroad to ensure suitable media coverage of the same.

The Division also played a critical role in suitable media coverage of incoming visits of world leaders and other foreign dignitaries to India.

Summits/Conferences & Outreach Coverage

The Division successfully organised coverage of Forum of India-Pacific Island Countries (FIPIC) Summit at Jaipur (August, 2015), 10th Vishwa Hindi Sammelan at Bhopal (September 2015) and 3rd India - Africa Forum Summit (October 2015) and the Delhi Dialogue VIII (February 2016). XPD Division also organised Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9 January 2016.

Publicising the Government's initiatives

- (a) On the completion of the first year of the Government in May 2015, the Division published a detailed booklet titled 'Transformational Diplomacy' which outlined the main achievements in the foreign policy space. Accompanied by a short video that captured the highlights, the External Affairs Minister launched the booklet during an extensive Press Conference in which she answered wide-ranging queries on the Government's foreign policy initiatives.
- (b) Consequent to the declaration of 21st June to be observed as the International Day of Yoga (IDY) by the United Nations, XPD Division coordinated the celebration of the event across the world in 192 countries with livestreaming events, and social media updates in real time. These took place as events unfolded from East to West, with the main celebrations in India as well as that in the UN Headquarters and Times Square, New York being the highlight. A special IDY page was set up on the MEA website which collected photos and indicated events.
- (c) To commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, XPD Division created a special page outlining his contribution to the making of India's Constitution. A collection of his writings and speeches was uploaded on the MEA website. In addition, two well known films on the life of Dr. Ambedkar and a set of 10 DVDs on the making of the Constitution of India by Shyam Benegal were sent to our Missions/Posts abroad for screening. Also, 23 books on Dr. Ambedkar have been selected for use by our Missions/Posts abroad.
- (d) XPD Division brought out a booklet titled 'Diplomacy for Development : From Aspirations to Achievements' to highlight the various achievements on the foreign Policy front during 2015, organised around

13 key themes showcasing the intimate dovetailing of diplomacy with development and national resurgence.

- (e) To highlight the achievements and key events during the visits of the Prime Minister as well as for the India Africa Summit, special e-books have been created. These, made available through our website and social media channels, have been an invaluable resource to understand how the visit unfolded as well as to document outcomes.
- (f) With an objective to create awareness of Indian Foreign policy among the Indian youth XPD Division organized an all India Essay Competition through Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) in all its 25 regions on seven topics related to India's foreign policy. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister distributed the prizes to the winners of the competition on 10 December 2016 in New Delhi.

XPD Division acts as the interface between the Ministry of External Affairs and the media. Regular press briefings were organised to share information with the media on significant events or important diplomatic challenges, as well as special briefings on VVIP visits. To ensure speedy and timely dissemination of information on real-time basis, features like - SMS alerts, Live streaming on Youtube, hosting of speeches, statements, briefings on the website's Sound Cloud page continue to be used.

Digital Outreach

Since XPD Division is also the Ministry's nodal Division for social and digital media outreach, new features are continually added to enhance information dissemination efforts. The MEA website, recipient of the Web Ratna Award in 2015, is fully compliant with GoI standards, and remains a dynamic source of information and resources on the Ministry's activities. The Ministry's French, Spanish and Arabic websites have also received a positive response. XPD Division also ensures that new initiatives by the Consular, Passport and Visa Division are adequately publicised and has a dedicated page for the same which is constantly updated.

Social Media Platforms

Having acquired a uniform digital identity, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)'s presence on social media platforms has been constantly growing. The aggregate following of the Ministry alone, excluding Missions and Posts abroad, is **approximately 3.8 million**. As a result of this, the average

monthly reach of its posts on Twitter crosses **17.5 million**, while on Facebook, the monthly reach goes above **15 million**.

- (a) The followers of Indian Diplomacy facebook page and MEA India facebook page have increased tremendously and today the numbers stand at 8,17,513 and 11,91,214 respectively.
- (b) The number of people adding the MEA India G+ page to their inner circles is fast expanding and has crossed **7,83,768**. Similarly, the Indian diplomacy twitter account (@IndianDiplomacy) and the Official Spokesperson's twitter account (@MEAIndia) have a combined followership of **10,32,930**. The platforms are used to tweet on India and India's foreign policy.
- (c) The number of viewers to the full length documentaries and films commissioned by the division hosted on Indian Diplomacy YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/user/Indiandiplomacy) has also increased to 63,81,147.
- (d) The Flickr account (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/meaindia>) continues to serve as a useful and popular online repository of photographs of all major events of the Ministry.

As part of its initiative to expand the role of social media in Foreign Policy, the Ministry has roped in our Missions and Posts abroad to enter the online space and communicate directly with the local population of the host countries as well as the Indian Diaspora.

Today **around 149 Indian Missions around the world (95%) have a Facebook presence**. Working with Facebook, the Ministry has verified most of these accounts, and has standardized them under one title e.g., 'India in USA', 'India in Ireland'. These accounts are used to routinely put out information about Embassy activities, soft stories about India, channels of investments, and participation in lead programmes such as *Make in India* and *Digital India*. **More than 90 Missions and Posts are also active on Twitter**. The Ministry is working to standardize names and verify accounts as authentic on Twitter as well.

Visual Outreach – Films and Documentaries

Aimed at positive projection of India's image abroad the Division commissions documentary films which are sent to Indian Missions abroad for screening and telecast on foreign TV channels. Fifteen documentary films were completed

during this period which include- Navroz: The New Day, Ocean of Melody Part 1& 2, Inside and Outside at the same time: Shared Histories France in India: India in France, India: The land of Buddha Celebrating Buddha Purnima (VESAK), Yoga: Harmony with Nature, Black Pepper White Pepper: Stories from the trenches, Indian Deities worshipped in Japan, Operation Raahat, Moonstruck, Adoor: A Journey in Frames, Padma Bhushan Saichiro Misumi: Architect of India-Japan Relations, Destination India, Neo-Alchemists-The Great Indian Jugaad, The Only Goal.

On the occasion of first International Yoga Day on 21 June 2015, the Division commissioned - "Yoga: Harmony with Nature" which was telecast on four TV channels. The film was dubbed in six foreign languages.

The Division also premiered an Arabic film "Zero" by a Tunisian filmmaker which is about numeral zero (0) which has its origin in India.

Two films were especially commissioned for the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) titled - "India Africa Partnership for Progress" & "The Only Goal".

The Division has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NDTV and has entered into a MoU with DD Bharati for telecast of its documentaries on NDTV, DD National, DD India & DD Bharati respectively. Discovery Channel has signed an agreement to telecast one of XPD's documentaries - "Jai Ho" for a period of three months.

Documentary films "The Power of 6", "Jalsa- Indian Women on Record", "Nautical Narratives of India", "Indian Women(Stree Shakti)", "Sojourns in a Composite Culture- India's Hindi Film Industry", "India's approach to Environment and Sustainable Development", "International day of Yoga" and "The Debate around Climate Change from an Indian Perspective" were also commissioned during this period.

Public Outreach

The Division's public outreach initiative under the rubric of Distinguished Lecture Series has been expanding steadily since its inception in 2010. The lecture series has also brought under its ambit 38 Central Universities besides a large number of premier education/training institutions across the country. This programme now covers more than 50 institutions all over the country, with an aim to

increase awareness about India's Foreign Policy amongst the general public, particularly the youth. The growing interest in this lecture series is evident from the increasing number of requests received from several other institutions from all over India and the number of lectures conducted increasing manifold. This year alone, 45 lectures have already been conducted.

India Perspectives, the flagship magazine of the Ministry has now been made available in 2 more international languages i.e. Chinese and Japanese. India Perspectives is available in 16 languages now - Hindi, Arabic, English, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhalese, Spanish, Tamil, Chinese and Japanese. It can also be read online at www.indiaperspectives.in and is available across multiple digital platforms through Magzter and Issuu.

A number of Coffee Table Books were commissioned during this period covering India's Role in World War I, the celebration of International Day of Yoga and the 3rd India Africa Forum Summit. These reflect some of the key soft power projections and partnerships that the Ministry has undertaken. Books selected in 35th book committee were dispatched to Indian Missions abroad during this period.

An MoU for translation work of 25 Chinese classic books into Hindi was signed between XPD Division and National Book Trust (NBT). At least one classic book is expected to be translated during this period.

Familiarisation Visits

In order to enhance awareness about India amongst friendly countries and to encourage media exchanges, XPD Division organises familiarisation visits by foreign and Indian journalists. Visits of journalist from Bhutan, Belarus, Thailand, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Pacific Island countries, Central Asian countries and African countries were organised during this period.

Bilateral Media Forum

The 3rd India - Africa Editors' Forum was organised on 25 October 2015 in New Delhi and saw the participation of 44 senior journalists from African countries as well as senior Indian journalists. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Forum.



Foreign Service Institute

Officer Trainees:

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) conducted training programmes for Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2013 Batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). Twenty-five IFS OTs completed their training and their valedictory function was organized at FSI on 04 June 2015. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj was the Chief Guest. EAM's Gold Medal for the Best OT of the 2013 Batch, Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation and trophies for Best Sportspersons were awarded, on the occasion, to deserving OTs.

Officer Trainees of the 2014 batch joined FSI after completing their Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in December 2014 for a nine-month long training, which ended in September 2015. Their training included subjects such as international relations and foreign policy, international law, defence and security, trade and economic diplomacy, hydro diplomacy, media relations, cultural diplomacy, right to information, social development, minority and human rights issues etc. The programme also included modules on administration, establishment, accounts, protocol, consular matters, reporting skills, official language policy, external publicity, public diplomacy, representational skills and India's cultural heritage.

Training was delivered through interactive lectures, group discussions, case studies, role playing and simulation and presentations on topical issues to develop creative thinking. Special modules on Consular Work and on Public Speaking to develop effective communication skills were also included. A one week course was organized in collaboration with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi to develop their skills in management and economic issues. A two-day module on 'Climate Change negotiations' was conducted by

the Centre for Science and Environment, which has been an integral part of the OTs' training programme. A day-long training module was organized by the Cabinet Secretariat on their functioning and responsibilities.

In order to familiarize the OTs with the work of Indian Missions abroad, the Officer Trainees visited the Indian Missions in Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Bangladesh in seven separate groups for a period of two weeks.

The OTs were sent on attachments with the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, followed by a three-week long 'Bharat Darshan' tour to acquaint them with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and economic and tourism potentials of the country.

Beginning with 2015, FSI has introduced an element of State specialization as part of the training of OTs, under the directive of the Government. Thus, in place of normal district attachment, the training programme included a month-long State familiarization visit/District attachment in various States across the country. OTs got an opportunity to learn about the socio-political, cultural, historical, touristic and economic profile of the State, as also administration at the grass roots level and functioning of State and district administration. On their return, OTs submitted and subsequently defended their theses on State specialization. They also made a detailed presentation on Bharat Darshan in the presence of FSI faculty. FSI also organized an exhibition of photographs taken by the OTs during their Bharat Darshan, which were judged by the renowned photographer and Buddhism scholar, Shri Benoy Behl. On completion of their training at FSI, the 2014 batch proceeded on desk attachment in the Ministry in September 2015.

The 2015 batch of IFS Officer Trainees underwent Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The 33 Officer



IFS Batch 2013 & 2014 during the valediction Function of 2013 Batch on 04 June 2015

Trainees (32 of 2015 batch and 1 of 2014 batch) began their training at FSI on 21 December 2015.

Mid-career training:

FSI conducted Mid Career Training Programme (MCTP) Phase II for Grade IV officers (Director-level), of the 1999 and 2000 batches, for a period of three weeks distributed equally among FSI, IIM, Ahmedabad and State specialization visit from 30 November to 18 December 2015.

A flexible program for MCTP - I (Mid Career Training Programme Phase I), meant for officers who return to HQs after completing their first round of postings abroad (typically, with 5-8 years of service under their belt) is also under consideration in consultation with MEA Administration. Participating officers would be expected to complete this training at their own pace and as per their convenience.

Other training modules:

Joint training programmes were organized for IFS OTs, officers on deputation to MEA as well as US/DS level IFS officers for wider exposure and cross fertilization of ideas. Subjects included trade and economic diplomacy, media management, hydro diplomacy and many others. The talks/lectures were shared on webinar for the convenience of officers posted abroad, many of whom joined the class.

Inter Service Training

An orientation capsule on Foreign Policy was conducted for officers of Cabinet Secretariat in April 2015, at their request. An orientation capsule on Economic and Commercial Training for Indian Commercial Representatives in Missions abroad was also conducted on 11-12 June 2015. Some MEA officers also attended the capsule.

Training for Branch B of IFS:

Training courses for Section Officers/ Private Secretaries, Assistants/PAs and Clerks were revamped. Apart from existing training courses in GoI Rules & Office Procedure, and MEA-specific subjects like IFS (PLCA) Rules, IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System), Protocol, Economic & Commercial work, Consular, Passport & Visa work, etc., training capsules in other areas were also offered. These included Right to Information (RTI), personality development & Know India, basic Computer & IT Skills, usage of Hindi, Website management, Finance and Budget work, MEA Overview, Foreign Policy, Trade Promotion, Cultural Diplomacy, media handling, VVIP Visits etc. A two-day training capsule was introduced, for the very first time, for MEA's multi-tasking staff and drivers.

Linkages with counterpart Foreign Embassies / Diplomatic Institutes Abroad

From 23-28 August 2015, Dean, FSI visited Beijing for interactions at the Chinese Foreign Affairs Office, as also Hong Kong and Shanghai for interactions at the provincial FAOs. Dean also visited Poland to attend the 42nd Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations organized by the International Forum on Diplomatic Training from 23-25 September 2015.

A delegation led by H.E. Mr. Shambhu Ram Shimkhada, Consultant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal visited FSI on 7 July 2015. A 110-member delegation of students from ASEAN countries and a 34-member delegation of Singapore Foreign Service Officers visited FSI on 11 and 14 September 2015 respectively. Subsequently, a 96-member delegation of students from ASEAN countries visited FSI on 30 October 2015. Many Ambassadors based in New Delhi, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Somalia, Indonesia, Spain and the Czech Republic called on Dean FSI during the year. Ms. Kiran Parvez, the new South and Central Asia Chair at the United States Foreign Service Institute, interacted with Dean and other officers of FSI in November 2015 on ways of collaboration between the two Foreign Service Institutes.

FSI also organized a series of training programmes for foreign diplomats through the year 2015, which are listed below:

Foreign Diplomats Training Programmes

- The 59th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats was conducted from 23 March to 17 April 2015 which was attended by 26 foreign diplomats;
- Special Training Course for Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries was conducted at two places, Nadi (Fiji) and Palau, from 4-8 & 11-15 May 2015 respectively and was attended by 26 diplomats from Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall islands. Two retired Ambassadors and members of FSI's Guest Faculty travelled to Nadi and Palau to train these foreign diplomats;
- The 60th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats was conducted from 5 August to 4 September 2015 which was attended by 27 foreign diplomats;
- A Special Course for Somali Diplomats was conducted from 16 September to 16 October 2015 which was attended by 20 Somali Diplomats.
- The 9th Special Course for Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) diplomats is being held from 18 November to 18 December 2015 which is being attended by 19 diplomats from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.



Special Course at FSI for Somali Diplomats (16 Sept. – 16 Oct. 2015)

During the year 2015, FSI signed MoUs with:

- Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia on 17 May 2015;
- Institute of International Relations (IIR) the University of West Indies, St. Augustine, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 5 June 2015;
- Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan on 11 July 2015;
- Foreign Service Institute of Maldives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Republic of Maldives on 11 October 2015; and
- Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 11 October 2015.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan:

Having joined in a big way the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan in 2014, FSI continued the effort of ensuring the cleanliness of its own premises and neighbourhood during 2015. FSI has also incorporated the message as part of its training content. A Ber Sarai Swachh Bharat Committee has been formed to discuss plans of action including organization of periodical cleanliness and awareness campaigns.



Nalanda Division

The Nalanda University made good progress during the year in its journey as an institution of academic excellence with an international footprint. Teaching in the School of Historical Studies and School of Ecology and Environment studies started in September 2014 from leased premises in Rajgir, Bihar and the total number of students has reached 62 during the academic year 2015-16.

The University plans to introduce teaching in the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and comparative religions next. The University has envisaged a total number of seven schools of studies with 2450 students and 500 faculty members when it will be fully operational by the year 2021-22. The Government of India allocated an amount of Rs 2727 crores for the capital and recurring expenditure of Nalanda University during its establishment phase till 2021-22.

In order to strengthen the international nature of Nalanda University, Ministry of External Affairs has been closely working with East Asia Summit (EAS) member countries and also other countries. Indonesia became the 12th EAS country to sign the MoU on establishment of Nalanda University

on 14 March 2015 while Thailand signed the MoU on 29 June 2015. From amongst the non-EAS countries, Sri Lanka signed the MoU on 16 February 2015 while Portugal became the first European country to sign the MoU on 9 October 2015. So far, a total number of 17 EAS and non-EAS countries have signed the MoU on the establishment of Nalanda University. The process of notification of Nalanda University laws/regulations was carried forward with the notification of University's first ordinance on 10 June 2015.

The tendering process for the construction of Nalanda University's permanent campus in Rajgir, Bihar is in an advanced stage of consideration and it is expected that construction work at the site will start soon with the award of contract. The construction work is expected to be completed within three and half years. It may be mentioned that the University has signed a tripartite agreement with M/s RSP Architects & Engineers, Singapore and M/s Vatsu Shilp consultants for the purpose of construction of University's library at a cost of up to Sing \$ 10 million to be donated by the people of Singapore to Nalanda University.

Details of MoUs signed on the establishment of Nalanda University during the year 2015.

S.No	Title of Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of entry into force
1	Memorandum of Understanding between Republic of India and Republic of Srilanka on the establishment of Nalanda University.	16 February 2015	16 February 2015
2	Memorandum of Understanding between Republic of India and Republic of Indonesia on the establishment of Nalanda University.	14 March 2015	14 March 2015
3	Memorandum of Understanding between Republic of India and Royal Government of Thailand on the establishment of Nalanda University	29 June 2015	29 June 2015
4	Memorandum of Understanding between Republic of India and the Portuguese Republic on the establishment of Nalanda University	09 October 2015	09 October 2015

Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

31

The Ministry has a well-organised programme for propagation and promotion of Hindi abroad with the involvement of our Missions/Posts. Under this scheme, Hindi teaching material including Hindi textbooks, literary and children's books, Hindi magazines, Hindi learning Compact discs (CDs), software to work in Hindi on computers, dictionaries etc. are supplied to educational institutions and other Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) through the Missions/ Posts. Ministry also extends support to various Foreign Universities and other Educational Institutions through Indian Missions abroad for Hindi related activities.

World Hindi Conference is organised every three years by the Ministry. The 10th World Hindi Conference was organised

by the Ministry on 10-12 September 2015 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The inaugural and concluding ceremonies of the Conference were attended by more than 7000 participants including a large number of foreign delegates. The main theme of the Conference was "Hindi Jagat : Vistar evam Sambhavnae". Based on the main theme, discussions were held on twelve sub-themes in parallel sessions. In addition to the World Hindi Conference, Ministry also organises Regional Hindi Conferences through our Missions abroad with the association of local organisers involved in the propagation of Hindi and Indian culture abroad.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj with other dignitaries at the inauguration of the 10th World Hindi Conference held at Bhopal on 10-12 September 2015.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi releasing commemorative stamp on the occasion of the 10th World Hindi Conference on 10 September 2015.



Delegates at the inauguration of the 10th World Hindi Conference on 10 September 2015.

To promote Hindi as an international language, a World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Mauritius under a bilateral agreement between India and Mauritius. Functioning of the Secretariat is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs and its Mauritian counterpart in the Government of Mauritius.

The Ministry coordinates work relating to grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. There is a provision of awarding 100 scholarships every year.

Implementation of Official language Policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry. Ministry had organised Hindi Pakhwara on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. Regional Passport Offices as well as our Missions abroad organised various Hindi competitions on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, 2015. Special grants were sanctioned to Missions/Posts abroad for organising these activities. World Hindi Day is celebrated in all our Missions/Posts abroad as well as at the Headquarters on 10 January every year.

A Hindi Advisory Committee is working in the Ministry under the Chairpersonship of External Affairs Minister.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, Official Language Implementation Committees are being set up in Indian Missions abroad. In compliance with the annual program issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry in association with the Department of Official Language regularly conducts inspection of Indian Missions abroad and Regional Passport Offices in India, to take stock of the progressive use of Official language in Official Business.

Regional passport offices of Dehradun, Raipur and Shimla under the Ministry were notified under sub rule 10 (4) of Official Languages Rule, 1976 this year. Only those offices are notified under this rule where a minimum of 80% employees have achieved working knowledge of Hindi.

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Indian Council for Cultural Relations

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded on 9 April 1950 with the objective of formulating and implementing policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations; fostering and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; promotion of cultural exchanges with other countries and people; establishing and developing relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture; and taking such measures as may be required to further these objectives. In 2015, ICCR undertook a wide range of activities to promote better understanding of India abroad. The activities of ICCR could be broadly divided into: Academic and Intellectual; Arts and Culture; and Other Activities.

Academic and Intellectual

ICCR administers scholarships under various schemes of the Government for foreign students to pursue under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes in various fields, including art and culture, humanities, as well as professional courses such as engineering, pharmacy, accountancy, business administration and management. As part of its academic and intellectual activities, ICCR had offered 3339 scholarship slots for studying in India under its various scholarship schemes.

ICCR implements various welfare measures, lectures by eminent Indians, cultural events and summer and winter camps to give foreign scholars an opportunity to explore India and get an understanding of its rich and varied cultural heritage and its industrial and scientific capabilities. As welfare measures ICCR organized 12 summer camps during May-June 2015 and 12 winter camps during December 2015-February 2016. On the occasion of Maulana Azad's birth anniversary, Council organized International Students Festival in November 2015 in several Regional Offices and in some Missions abroad for the benefit of aspiring students and alumni.

ICCR is encouraging Indian Missions abroad to establish ICCR Alumni groups and many have already been established.

ICCR in consultation with Indian Missions abroad, has established Chairs of Indian Studies in various foreign universities. The purpose of these Chairs, apart from educating foreign students about India, is to become a nucleus around which Indian Studies could develop in academic institutions abroad.

The number of operational Chairs as on 30 November 2015 is 70 which includes 10 positions of school level Hindi teachers. Of the 70 Chairs, 27 are for teaching of Indian languages [20 Hindi Chairs (10 Professorial + 10 Teacher level), 4 Sanskrit Chairs, 2 Tamil Chairs and 1 Bengali Chair] while the remaining cover other India related subjects.

In addition, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is under renewal for 21 Chairs. There are 15 new proposals to establish new Chairs in foreign universities. During the period April 2015 to November 2015, MoUs have been signed for 11 new Chairs (2 in Australia [Murdoch University, Perth & Monash University, Melbourne], 1 in China (Fudan University, Shanghai), 1 in Hong Kong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) 1 in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa) 1 in Nairobi (University of Nairobi), 1 in Romania (University of Bucharest, Bucharest), 1 in Spain (Valladolid University, Valladolid), 1 in Russia (Kazan University, Kazan), 1 in UK (St. James School, London) and 1 in Lebanon (Lebanese American University, Beirut)], which are likely to be operationalized in the academic Year 2015-16 & 2016-17.

ICCR and 70 operational Chairs covering languages and other aspects of Indian Studies in Universities abroad. In addition to Chairs abroad, ICCR also operates two Chairs in India i.e. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Chair and Nelson Mandela Chair for which scholars from abroad are invited to India. While African scholars are invited for the Nelson Mandela Chair which is permanently based in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), scholars from SAARC countries are invited for the SAARC Chair which rotates between different universities.

In 2015, ICCR organized 19 conference/ seminars including

the first International Conference of Indologists 2015 which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan and International Roma Conference 2016, which was inaugurated by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, at Azad Bhavan. A detailed list of conferences/seminars (covering April-November 2015) is at Appendix XII.

The Council provided financial assistance to eight Conferences/Seminar held in India, Cambodia and Vietnam.

ICCR constituted three Awards in 2015 namely, Distinguished Indologist Award, World Sanskrit Award and Distinguished Alumni Award. Distinguished Indologist Award 2015 was presented by Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee upon a German Scholar Professor Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron at an award ceremony organized at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Distinguished Alumni Award was presented by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj to three awardees including the Secretary General of ASEAN H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh from Vietnam; Ethiopian Minister of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, H.E. Ms. Zenebu TadesseWoldetsadik and a noted Kathakali dancer from France Ms. Milena Salvini

ICCR awards Senior and Junior Research Fellowships to international scholars specializing in Indian studies in various fields particularly culture and social sciences. Under this programme, 4 scholars (two from the UK, one each from Russia and Czech Republic) joined different universities as ICCR Senior Fellows and two scholars (one each from Nepal and Russia) joined as ICCR Junior Fellows.

Under the "Distinguished Visitors Programme" ICCR hosted visit to India of eminent personalities from Latvia, Tunisia, Nepal, Trinidad & Tobago and Namibia.

Under its Outgoing Visitors Programme, Council sponsored/provided travel grant to visits of 24 participants of seminars, conferences, etc. to USA, Canada, Azerbaijan, Spain, Thailand, Mauritius, Bhutan and UK.

Under its Academic Visitors Programme, Council invited 4 eminent Academicians/ Scholars from Poland, Argentina, Indonesia and Tanzania.

Art and Culture

ICCR's 35 full-fledged Cultural Centres and one sub-Centre abroad actively promoted India's soft power abroad through a wide range of activities, including dance, music, theatre, yoga, Hindi language, talks, exhibitions, conferences and seminars. ICCR opened 02 new Culture Centres - in Busan

and Sydney. Council sent busts / statues of National leaders to various countries. Through regular interaction and guidance for the Indian Cultural Centres, ICCR has been able to increase both the number of programmes being organised, as well as the range and diversity of events.

On the occasion of First International Yoga Day on 21 June 2015, Council deputed 30 India-based Yoga Teachers to various countries in association with Ministry of AYUSH to spread the knowledge of Yoga. In order to institutionalize teachings of Indian Yoga overseas, ICCR established India-China Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University, Kunming, China and Indo-Turkmenistan Centre for Yoga and Traditional Medicine in Ashgabat.

During the period April 2015 to November 2015, an MoU was signed on 21 June, 2015 between ICCR and Indian Cultural Centre, Busan towards ICCR's financial assistant upto US\$ 50,000 or 25% of the expenditure of ICC, Busan, whichever is lower for a period of three financial years. Another MoU was signed on 15 May, 2015 between ICCR and Yunnan Minzu University, Kunming, China to open a Yoga College by deploying of two Assistant Professors of Yoga (1 each of male & female). Two yoga Teachers (1 each of male & female) were also deputed at the India-Turkmenistan Yoga & Traditional Medical Centre at Ashgabat which was inaugurated by our Prime Minister on 11 July 2015 during his visit to Russia. The Council is also working for deploying Multi Resource Teachers to various Indian Missions abroad where ICCR is not maintaining Indian Cultural Centres. The proposals for establishment of full-fledged Indian Cultural Centres at Hanoi (Vietnam) and Nairobi (Kenya) are also under active consideration.

ICCR sponsored/provided travel grants to 120 Indian cultural groups/artistes to 91 countries to present their performances, including at prestigious international festivals. Apart from this, the Council is handling Indian Cultural manifestations abroad by organizing major festivals. "Namaste Russia" was inaugurated on 10 May 2015 in Moscow by the Hon'ble President of India along with his Russian Counterpart. The inaugural event featured a special production by Kadamb group of Ms. Kumudini Lakhia. It also organized performances by 53 foreign groups in India, including at ICCR's various prestigious Festivals

A Sanskrit Play "Karnabharam" by Jnan Pravah University, Varanasi, presented in Thailand on 29 June 2015 was the special feature of the current financial year activities as Sanskrit play have rarely gone abroad previously. Ramayana group of Shri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra (SBKK) visited Mauritius to present Ramayana during the International Ramayana Conference.

ICCR sent 18 exhibitions abroad out of which 16 were from its own collection to various countries covering a broad spectrum including photography, paintings and textiles.

A group of 10 Women artists from India participated in the Maitri II - Women artists Residency held at Shanghai, China from 24-30 October, 2015. The inaugural residency was held in Jaipur, India in 2014.

The exhibition 'Maitri' produced by the artists during the India - China Women Artists' Residency held in Jaipur in November 2014 was displayed in Bangalore, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Shillong, Pune and Mumbai.

Under its Horizon Series, ICCR organized 4 exhibitions of paintings and sculptures in its Azad Bhavan Art Gallery. Details are attached at Appendix XIII.

To promote cultural interaction with other countries, ICCR regularly organized cultural events with foreign participation in India. Important among these are 2nd edition of "International Folk Dance and Music Festival" organized in Delhi from 16-18 October 2015 in collaboration with DIAF with participation of groups from UK, Spain, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Israel, Mauritius, Hungary, Sri Lanka and India. The event was inaugurated by Smt. Najma Heptulla, Minister of Minority Affairs. Apart from performing in Delhi the groups also performed in 10 other cities of India; "India Africa Forum Summit" from 24 October to 5 November 2015 in which besides Indian cultural groups, cultural groups from Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, Egypt and Bolivia performed at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 29 October 2015 and gave performances in Guwahati, Vadodara and Delhi; ICCR collaborated with Forum of Art Beyond Borders (FABB) & Prasiddha Foundation, New Delhi to organize the "Delhi International Arts Festival 2014" from 16-31 October 2015 in which groups from Egypt, Taiwan, Portugal, Kyrgyzstan, Israel, Turkey, Indonesia, Mexico, China and UK participated; 2nd edition of "International Bhakti Festival" from 7-9 December 2015 was organized in Delhi and devotional groups from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Mauritius performed not only in Delhi but also in Ahmadabad, Pune, Jammu, Chandigarh, Dehradun and Noida.

Besides the above Festivals, ICCR hosted 10-member Odissi group "Sutra Foundation" led by Mr. Ramli Ibrahim from Malaysia in June 2015 in Delhi and Kolkata.

ICCR organized ten cultural evenings under the "Horizon Series" presented by India artists/groups at Azad Bhavan, Auditorium, New Delhi. "Horizon Series" programmes are also organized in Regional Offices of the Council.

To promote and propagate Hindi, ICCR organizes various activities such as Hindi Seminars and release of books in India and abroad. ICCR appoints Hindi teachers/professors in its Cultural Centres, Missions and various universities abroad to propagate Hindi language. It also sends Hindi books, dictionaries and its Hindi publication "Gagnanchal" to Indian Missions and Indian Cultural Centers abroad. During the period from April to November 2015, Hindi Workshop was organized in the Council in June 2015. A book on Father Camille Bulcke, a Belgian national Hindi Scholar, was published entitled "Father Camille Bulcke: Bharatiyata ke Prakash Punj". Council published special issue of Hindi journal "Gagnanchal" Volume 38 No.3 on the occasion of International Yoga Day in June 2015. On the occasion of the 10th World Hindi Conference" organized in Bhopal from 10-12 September 2015, special issue of "Gagnanchal" Volume 38 No.4-5 and a souvenir entitled Kavya-Rasdhara were published. ICCR organized "Hindi Pakhwada" in September 2015 during which Hindi Workshop and Hindi Competition were also organized. Council in collaboration with Senior Citizen Council of Delhi organized Poetry Conference in its Auditorium on 5 November 2015.

During 2015, ICCR sent three busts of Mahatma Gandhi to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Malaysia and three statues to Kyrgyzstan, Haiti (Havana) and Netherlands, two busts of Rabindranath Tagore in Tajikistan and Argentina and on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs one bust of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to Singapore.

Library and Publications

The personal collection of books and manuscripts bequeathed by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Founder President of the Council, forms the core of the ICCR Library. A catalogue of the manuscripts and personal books of Maulana Azad has been printed in book form in three languages - Arabic, Urdu and Persian. Over the decades, the library has grown manifold and presently has more than 50,000 volumes. ICCR continued to administer the British Council Libraries and coordinate the activities of the Foreign Cultural Centres in India. The Library Fellowship Programme had been instituted in 2002 with an objective to maximize the utilization of Library resources.

ICCR brings out journals in five different languages, namely "Indian Horizons" (English quarterly), "Gagananchal" (Hindi bi-monthly), "Papeles de la India" (Spanish, bi-annual), Rencontre Avec L'Inde (French bi-annual) and "Thaqafat-ul-Hind" (Arabic Quarterly), for distribution in India and abroad.



The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) continued to accord high priority to research and study of political and economic development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America, and wider global geo-strategic environments were analyzed. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, which were placed on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA started translating its academic outputs in Hindi and have posted it on its website. Since April 2015 it has published two books (translated), one monograph and one Sapru House Paper in Hindi Efforts are under way to revamp ICWA website to make it more user friendly. ICWA has also opened its library for general public and membership rules have been eased.

ICWA also conducted a large number of events, lectures, conferences and outreach activities. The library was improved and new books were acquired. The Service Regulations for the operation of ICWA were drafted on the basis of rules governing ICWA notified by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Ambassador Nalin Surie has taken charge as new DG of ICWA in July 2015.

Research

The ICWA research faculty comprises at present a Director (Research) and 20 Research Fellows. Five Research Interns were recruited for short duration. This includes one scholar from Australia, Dr. Alan Bloom field.

In the past eight months, the Research Faculty and scholars were engaged in the study and research on the political, security, and economic trends and developments in priority areas all over the world and have analyzed wider global geostrategic and economic environment. They disseminated the outcome by publishing articles in media and other academic journals in addition to the ICWA publications of 2 Sapru House Papers, 1 Monograph, 11 books, 24

Issue Briefs, 13 Policy Briefs and 24 Viewpoints during the period.

As part of its outreach initiative, ICWA has instituted Book Research Grants, Sapru House Paper Grants and Conference Grants to facilitate and promote research on Foreign Policy issues. Further, programmes in Hindi have been promoted under Foreign Policy Awareness Programme in Hindi and so far eight such events have been organized.

While ICWA's in-house research capacity is being steadily built, eminent scholars and former practitioners of foreign policy are being commissioned to conduct research on specific areas or projects on India's relations with key regions or countries or major international economic issues. ICWA also hosted a number of international conferences, seminars and workshops. In addition, ICWA supported conference travel to its in-house scholars and four RFs were given travel grants to attend conferences abroad.

The second Core Group on China established on 24 July, 2015 completed the task of producing the manuscript which is now getting published. The Core Group on Pakistan has held seven meetings and the book is now published. ICWA has also undertaken projects on subject of contemporary global/bilateral importance and six such reports have been submitted to MEA.

Studies and policy recommendations, where appropriate, were forwarded to the MEA. ICWA has also been providing conference reports summary to the MEA.

Publications

Various ICWA's publications were brought out regularly during the period as per details provided below:

1. ICWA's Journal 'India Quarterly' was brought out regularly during the period 2015-16

- i) India Quarterly (A Journal of International Affairs), Vol-71 No.2 June 2015.
- ii) India Quarterly (A Journal of International Affairs), Vol-71 No.3 September 2015.
- iii) India Quarterly (A Journal of International Affairs), Vol-71 No.4, December 2015.

2. ICWA's Books (Manuscripts) published during the period 2015-16

- i) BCIM Economic Corridor: The Road Ahead- Edited by Rajiv K Bhatia & Rahul Mishra
- ii) Myanmar Main Parivartan (In Hindi)- By Rajiv K Bhatia
- iii) Transitions And Interdependence: India And its Neighbours- Edited by Pankaj Jha & Smita Tiwari
- iv) Insights Into Evolution of Contemporary Pakistan- Edited by Satish Chandra & Smita Tiwari
- v) India in Global Affairs: Perspectives from Sapru House- By Rajiv K Bhatia
- vi) India And Southern Africa: Forging Ahead Through Partnership- Edited by Paramjit Singh Sahai
- vii) India and the Oceania: Exploring Vistas for Cooperation- By Pankaj K Jha
- viii) The Peacock and the Garuda: An overview of India-Indonesia Relations- Edited by Rajiv K Bhatia & Rahul Mishra
- ix) Canada-India: Partners in Progress- By Prem K Budhwar

3. ICWA's 'Sapru House Papers' and 'Other Publications' brought out during the period 2015-16.

- i) Bharat ki Israel Niti ka Badalta Sawroop (In Hindi)- Dr. Anoop Kumar Gupta
- ii) Oral History Record of Ambassador A.P. Venkateswaran, Vol. - III, Kishan S. Rana

iii) ICWA News Letter (Eng. + Hindi) - ICWA

4. Monograph (In Hindi)

“फेक्य; ds l helorlZ n'sha ea phu dh ?h iS vS Hgrh pqlr”- By Dr. Satish Kumar

List of Book Projects under process

- Sapru House Paper titled “PM Modi’s Visit Reinvigorates Ties with Central Asia” By Athar Zafar, Research Fellow, ICWA
- India and Russia in Hindi
- Rise of Neighbourhood in Chinese Foreign Policy” Author by:- Sanjeev Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA
- Oral History Project of Amb. A. N. Ram Interview by Amb. Gajanan Wakankar
- Monograph title “A China Primer: An Introduction to a Culture and Neighbour” By Amb. G. S. Iyer
- China and the Eurasian Region: Edited by Amb. C.V. Ranganathan and Sanjeev Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA

Outreach Activities

ICWA's outreach programmes included joint conferences and seminars with several Indian universities and think tanks across the country. Likewise, international engagements included participation in conferences, seminars and lectures in several countries.

During the period from 1April 2015 to 30 November 2015, the total number of events conducted are as follows:

i.	Lectures	-	07
ii.	Seminars/Conferences	-	09
iii.	Bilateral strategic dialogue	-	13
iv.	Panel Discussions/Background briefings	-	04
v.	Book Launch/Release/Discussion function	-	04
	Total		37

(A) Outreach programmes in India:

- a) Foreign Policy awareness programme in **Hindi** organized by Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, 29 May, 2015
- b) ICWA-Asia Centre, Bangalore (ICWA's MoU partner) Joint Seminar on "*China's Growing Geopolitical Reach and Intersection of Interests with India*", 13 June, 2015 at Bangalore.
- c) Two days National Conference on "*India's North-East And Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities*", organized by Sikkim University on 25-26 June, 2015 at Sikkim.
- d) Foreign Policy awareness programme in **Hindi** organized by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, on 28 July, 2015 at Bhopal.
- e) Foreign Policy awareness programme in **Hindi** organized by GDC Memorial College, on 19-20 September, 2015 at Bhiwani.
- f) Two days National Conference on the theme "*Revitalizing Relations with 'Extended Neighbourhood': New Opportunities and Future Directions for India's Foreign Policy*", organized by Ravenshaw University on 30-31 October, 2015 at Cuttack, Orissa.
- g) Three days International Conference on "Indo-Turkic Relations: Perspectives and its Contemporary Relevance", organized by Turkish Language & Literature Program, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia Milia Islamia (JMI) University on 1-3 November, 2015 at JMI, New Delhi.
- h) National Seminar on "India-China Relations: Conflict or Cooperation", organized by The Department of Defence Studies, Meerut College on 28-29 November, 2015 at Meerut.
- i) "*Asian Confluence: Young Scholars Forum*" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA on 5-6 December, 2015
- j) Roundtable on "India-US Partnership" with the participation of the visiting US Congressional Delegation on 18 January, 2016
- k) Two day National Seminar on the theme "India's Act East Policy: Problems and Prospects in North East India" on 28-29 January, 2016

(B) Outreach programmes outside India:

ICWA conducted conference/seminar with the following foreign think tanks:

- a) Visit of ICWA's Delegation to Cairo to hold Second dialogue with its MoU partner Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) on "India-Egypt Dialogue: Present Realities and Future Prospects", 19-23 April, 2015
Venue : Cairo, Egypt
- b) "*Sixth India-European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) Forum*" [hosted by ICWA's MoU partner, the EUISS in Brussels, 11-12 May 2015] *ICWA-SWP Interaction* [One day interaction with the German Institute of International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin, 13 May 2015]
Venue : Brussels & Berlin
- c) China-India Friendship Roundtable on "*Expect future from tradition: China-India friendly exchanges and mutual learning*" with Soong Ching Ling Foundation, 25-27 November, 2015
Venue : Beijing, China.

(C) Important Lectures held were:

- a) Sixteenth Sapru House Lecture on "*The rebirth of the Asian Continental Economy: Regional Cooperation and Afghanistan's Cooperative Advantage*" by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 28 April, 2015
- b) Seventeenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on "*Tajikistan Foreign Policy and Regional Security Challenges*", 12 May, 2015
- c) Eighteenth Sapru House Lecture by Justice Antonio T. Carpio, Senior Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines on "*The South China Sea Dispute*", 6 August, 2015
- d) Nineteenth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles on "*Maritime Security for the Blue Economy*", 27 August, 2015
- e) Speech by H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President-elect of the 70th Session, United

Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on “UN at 70”, 31 August, 2015

- f) Lecture by Ambassador Samantha Power, Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations on “*Toward More Effective Peacekeeping in the 21st Century*”, 20 November, 2015
- g) Twentieth Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Dr. Milan Brglez, Speaker of the Parliament of Slovenia on “*Slovenia’s Decade in the European Union - A Look Back and Opportunities for the Future*”, 26 November, 2015
- h) Talk by H.E. Mr. Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of India to Nepal on “*The Current Situation in Nepal*” -11 January, 2016

(D) Important Conferences held were:

Pre-India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)-III Conference on “*India-Africa in the 21st Century: Scale and Scope of Comprehensive Partnership*”, 15-16 October, 2015

(E) Important Bilateral and Strategic Dialogues held were :

- a) India-New Zealand Dialogue Series
Roundtable Discussion with Ms. Andrea Smith, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand on “*New Zealand’s Role in the Asia-Pacific Region*”, 9 April, 2015
- b) Roundtable Discussion on “*One Belt One Road Initiative of China*”, 25 May, 2015
- c) ICWA- MISIS Bilateral Dialogue, 17 June, 2015
[in collaboration with the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)]
- d) Luncheon Meeting hosted by ICWA in honour of the Delegates from Pacific Island Countries to the 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) on the request of MEA, 21 August, 2015
Venue: Hotel ITC Rajputana, Jaipur
- e) ICWA-Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) Bilateral Dialogue, 15 September, 2015
- f) Trilateral Dialogue with ICWA-AIIA-(Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)), 16 September, 2015

- g) ICWA-JIIA Bilateral Dialogue, 17 September, 2015
- h) Function to commemorate the “*International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*”, 30 November, 2015
- i) Interaction between Research Faculty of ICWA and participants to the HRDC Global Studies Programme of JNU on 2 December 2015

(F) Important Book Launch/Release functions held were :

- a) Launch of book: “*Latin America, the Caribbean and India: Promise and Challenge*” [An ICWA publication, authored by Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani], 9 April, 2015
- b) Release of book: “*China Confucius in the Shadows*” [An ICWA Publication, Authored by Ms. Poonam Surie] By Hon’ble Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India and President, Indian Council of World Affairs, 1 May, 2015
- c) Release of Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia’s Book – ‘*India-Myanmar Relations: Changing contours*’ by Hon’ble Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India and President, Indian Council of World Affairs, 22 September, 2015
- d) Book Discussion on ‘*India and the Oceania*’ authored by Dr. Pankaj Jha, Director(Research), ICWA on 20 January 2016.

(G) Visits of important Foreign Dignitaries to the Council

- a) H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 28 April, 2015
- b) by H.E. Mr. Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, 12 May 2015
- c) H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles, 27 August 2015
- d) by H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President-elect of the 70th Session, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), 31 August 2015
- e) Ambassador Samantha Power, Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, 20 November 2015

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

ICWA has been hosting the Secretariat of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)-India Committee since 2001.

CSCAP is an inclusive non-governmental process on Asia Pacific security matters. During the period from 1st April, 2015 to 30th November, 2015, the Council coordinated the following activities:

1. 1st CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Nonproliferation of Disarmament in the Asia Pacific held in Kuala Lumpur from April 06-07, 2015
2. 1st CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Preventive Diplomacy held in Kuala Lumpur from April 27-29, 2015
3. 29th Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting of CSCAP held in Kuala Lumpur from June 01-03, 2015.
4. 43rd Steering committee meeting of CSCAP held in Kuala Lumpur from June 04, 2015
5. 2nd Meeting of CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Energy Security held in Beijing, China from June 14-16, 2015
6. 1st Meeting of CSCAP Study Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime Search (SAR) held in Kuala Lumpur from 18-20 June, 2015
7. 2nd Workshop Meeting on Young Scholars held in Beijing, China from September 13-22, 2015.
8. CSCAP Workshop on Strategic Trade Control in Continental Southeast Asia held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from September 23-25, 2015
9. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Nuclear Energy Expert Group Meeting held in Singapore from October 15-16, 2015
10. 44th Steering Committee meeting of CSCAP held in Ulaanbaator, Mongolia from October 20-21, 2015
11. 10th General Conference of CSCAP held in Ulan Bator, Mongolia from October 21-22, 2015
12. 3rd CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Energy Security held in Singapore from October 26-27, 2015

ICWA Library

The Sapru House Library, since its inception in 1955, has emerged as a premier resource centre for Indian and foreign scholars. It houses approximately 143,000 books, journals, maps, and UN& EU documents. The entire collection is accessible through a digitised index and can be searched via On-Line Public Access Catalogue. A large part of the Sapru House Library is accessible to research scholars in digital format, as is the entire collection of the ICWA journal – India Quarterly. Endowed with a state of the art Cyber library, the Sapru House Library has linkages with other prestigious institutions that provide for access to ICWA scholars.

The Library aims to be a comprehensive repository of research materials and documents in the core areas of Indian foreign policy, with focus on South Asia. It strives to meet the demands of ever expanding horizons of our research projects and to upgrade its facilities.

Dissemination

ICWA initiated a policy of wide dissemination of its output and activities to reach the largest possible global audience and raise awareness about Indian concerns and aspirations in the national and global arena. A system of circulating publication alerts as well as revamping of the website: www.icwa.in and global webcasting of important events has been helpful in achieving the ICWA mandate. ICWA has also updated and reprinted its publicity brochure to disseminate information about the Council to a wider global audience.



Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specializes in issues relating to international economic development with special focus on trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation (SSC) and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various fora. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to enhance policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

Highlights of the work programme of RIS in the year 2015 are presented below:

Policy Dialogues, Conferences and Capacity Building Programmes:

Third Asia-Pacific NIS Forum on Diagnosis of NIS and Development of STI Strategies in the Open Innovation Framework

RIS collaborated with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), New Delhi, India and National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI), Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand for organising the Third Asia-Pacific NIS Forum on 'Diagnosis of National Innovation System (NIS) and Development of STI Strategies in the Open Innovation Framework' in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 and 9 April 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General and Dr. Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, participated.

Interactive Session on South-South Cooperation Strategy of UNDP

RIS organised an interactive session on South-South Cooperation Strategy of UNDP with Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wag, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York in New Delhi on 14 April 2015. Ms. Nan Collins, SSC Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub at Bangkok, and Ms. Momin Jaan, Programme Officer, UNDP India Country Office also joined RIS faculty in the discussions.

Release of Report on APEC and India

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, jointly with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), organised the launch function for the report 'APEC and India: An Appraisal' authored by Ambassador V. S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS on 21 May 2015 in New Delhi. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India released the Report and made keynote remarks. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made special remarks. Ambassador V. S. Seshadri made a presentation about the report which was followed by open discussion. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS extended vote of thanks.

Australia and India: Towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Asian Economic Order

Two well-reputed Australian public policy commentators viz. Mr. Rowan Callick, Asia-Pacific Editor of The Australian newspaper and Mr. Tom Switzer, Lecturer, Politics and International Relations and Research Associate, United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney, visited RIS on 26 May 2015 to have a roundtable discussion on 'Australia and India: Towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Asian Economic

Order'. From RIS, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General and Prof. Ram Upendra Das participated.

Panel Discussion on India 2050: A Roadmap to Sustainable Prosperity

RIS organised a Panel Discussion on 'India 2050: A Roadmap to Sustainable Prosperity' in New Delhi on 29 May 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made the introductory remarks. Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Chairman, Pahle India Foundation, New Delhi made a presentation on his book 'India 2050: A Roadmap to Sustainable Prosperity'. The panellists included Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development (CSD); Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, former Vice Chancellor, JNU; Mr. Manish Singhal, Assistant Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); and Dr. Saikat Sinha Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Seminar on India-Central Asia Economic Cooperation

RIS, jointly with the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised a seminar on 'Towards India-Central Asia Economic Cooperation' on 11 and 12 June 2015 in New Delhi. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, chaired the inaugural session. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, made the special remarks. Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India delivered the keynote address. H.E. Mr. Mirzosharif Asomuddinich Jalolov, Ambassador of Tajikistan to India; Mr. Evgeny Kablukov, Minister Counsellor, Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Sardar Shihiyev, First Secretary, Counsellor, Turkmenistan; and Mr. Gayrat Tairov, Trade and Economic Counsellor, Uzbekistan also addressed the Inaugural session. The seminar had the following sessions: Trade and Investment Linkages, Role of Regional and Multilateral Frameworks, Innovation and Technology Transfer collaboration Opportunities, Development of Entrepreneurial Partnerships and Agenda for Economic Development. From RIS, Prof. S.K. Mohanty and Prof. Ram Upendra Das participated.

Launch of South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015

RIS launched its flagship publication the 'South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015' (SADCR) in New Delhi on 25 June 2015. Mr. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Government of India released the report. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the welcome address. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS chaired the inaugural session. Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics, JNU, New Delhi and Co-chair, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS); Mr. A. M. Gondane, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and H.E. Mr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to India, also made special remarks at the inaugural session. Prof. Ram Upendra Das extended the vote of thanks.

The event also had sessions on 'Economic Cooperation for Economic Development in South Asia' and 'New Challenges before SAARC'. H.E. Amb. Lyonpo Dago Tshering, Former Ambassador of Bhutan to India chaired the valedictory session. Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, President, South Asian University, New Delhi and Amb. Jayant Prasad were the panellists. Mr. Arvind Mehta, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivered the Valedictory Address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the vote of thanks. The event was attended by senior diplomats, government officials, policymakers, academicians, industry representatives and media.

Discussion Meeting on India-Africa Economic Arrangements

RIS organised a Discussion Meeting on India-Africa Economic Arrangements (IAEA) in New Delhi on 12 June 2015. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS chaired the meeting. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made initial remarks. The main speakers in the meeting included: Mr. Syed Akbaruddin, Joint Secretary and Chief Coordinator (IAFS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Amit Shukla, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Rohit Mishra, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS.

Fourth Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT)

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; the ASEAN Secretariat; and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia organised the Fourth Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) on the theme 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening the Ties That Bind' on 7-8 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur. Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia made the welcome remarks. Hon Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia delivered the keynote address. General (Retd) Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India delivered the inaugural address. Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI and Amb. V. S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS made special remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and AIC made concluding remarks. At the roundtable 'ASEAN India Economic Relations : Opportunities and Challenges', AIC/ RIS Proceedings of the 3rd AINTT roundtable and 'ASEAN-India: Shaping the Post-2015 Agenda', IDSA Proceedings of the 7th Delhi Dialogue were also released. The first session of the roundtable deliberated on issues relating to non-traditional security threats such as maritime security, cyber security and transnational crime including international terrorism. Amb. V. S. Seshadri,

chaired this session. The second session dealt with existing and emerging regional security architectures and discussed the challenges that the countries have been facing in the region. Ms. Elina Noor chaired this session. The third session discussed issues relating to regional economic architecture such as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and the way forward. It was chaired by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics, Pune and Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR). The fourth session chaired by Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, discussed past and present cultural links between ASEAN and India and suggested a way forward to strengthen links. Tan Sri Dato Ajit Singh, Advisor (India Business), IJM Corporation Berhad and Former SecretaryGeneral, ASEAN Secretariat chaired fifth the session on 'Post-2015 Agenda of ASEAN and the Way Forward.' The roundtable concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Prabir De and Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa.

IORA Blue Economy Dialogue on Prospects of Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean

RIS, jointly with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi organised an International Conference on the "Prospects of Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean" on 17-18 August 2015 in Goa. The conference began with welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Mr. Samir Saran, Vice President, ORF and Mr. Alok Dimri,



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and AIC; Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Hon Dato' Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia; General (Retd) Vijay Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; and Amb. V. S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS and AIC at the Fourth Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) on the theme 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening the Ties That Bind' in Kuala Lumpur on 7-8 August 2015.

Director (MER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India made special remarks. Prof. V. N. Attri, Chair, Indian Ocean Rim Studies, IORA delivered the keynote address. Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS extended the vote of thanks. It had sessions on Developing a Comprehensive Accounting Framework for Blue Economy, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Renewable Ocean Energy, Ports, Shipping, Manufacturing and Other Sectors, and Sea-bed Exploration and Minerals.

Consultations on Financing for Development

Ahead of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD 3) in Addis Ababa, RIS in association with the UN in India and Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), organised consultations on Financing for Development. The first consultation was organised in New Delhi on 8 July 2015 in which Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS made welcome remarks. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS chaired this consultation. Dr. Adarsh Swaika, Director, UN Economic and Social Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and Dr. Akmal Hussain, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Forman Christian College, Lahore were the key panellists. They flagged India's position in the run up to FfD3. The second consultation was organised in Addis Ababa on 14 July 2015 on the sidelines of FfD 3 chaired by Mr. Jayant Sinha, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India. Ambassador Sanjay Verma, Ambassador of India to Ethiopia and Djibouti made welcome remarks. Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS; Dr. Manuel Montes, Senior Advisor, Finance and Development, The South Centre, Geneva; Mr. Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, National Foundation of India; and Mr. Danny Sriskandarajah, Secretary General, Civicus presented views from academia and civil society. Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lecture

As part of ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Lecture Series, ASEAN India Centre (AIC) at RIS, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the ASEAN Secretariat, organised a lecture by H.E. Mr. Evan Garcia,

Foreign Affairs Under Secretary, the Philippines in New Delhi on 17 July 2015. Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the special address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and AIC made welcome remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered the opening address.

International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Links

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Indian Council of Cultural Affairs (ICCR), organised the International Conference on "ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions" in New Delhi on 23- 24 July 2015. Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the keynote address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and AIC delivered the welcome address. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and AIC delivered the opening address. Prof. Lokesh Chandra, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi made Inaugural Address. The various session of the conference deliberated on: (i) Trade and maritime links between South and Southeast Asia; (ii) Continuities and change; (iii) Representations of religions and rituals; (iv) Textual traditions and transmissions; (v) Sacred geographies and localisations of beliefs; (vi) Evolving artistic expressions: from tradition to modernity; and (vii) Writing our own histories: changing methodologies. Eminent scholars from several parts of the world participated in the conference. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, gave the vote of thanks.

Roundtable on Medical Devices Policy

RIS organised a roundtable to invite comments/suggestions on the draft National Medical Devices Policy, 2015 on 10 August 2015. The purpose of the roundtable was to facilitate coordinated response to the draft policy. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General made welcome remarks. Mr. T.C. James, Consultant, RIS presented the draft policy. Mr. K. M. Gopa Kumar, Third World Network; Dr. Reji K. Joseph, ISID; Dr. Amit Sengupta, International People's Health University; Dr. Jitendar Kumar Sharma, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Zakir Thomas, former Director, OSDD; Dr. Sarojini N B; Dr. Debapriya Dutta, Director, Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, and

Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor participated in the roundtable.

Launching of the Report on India's Strategy for Economic Integration with CLMV

Ms. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary, Government of India launched the report on India's Strategy for Economic Integration with CLMV on 14 August 2015 in New Delhi. The report has brought out by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, New Delhi chaired the meeting. Shri Ravi Capoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India presented the rationale and genesis of the report. H.E. Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador of Vietnam to India made special remarks. Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS, who authored the report, presenting broad contours and delivered a vote of thanks..

One Belt, One Road

The Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) organised the "One Belt, One Road" and BCIM's Regional Interconnection Conference in Beijing, China on 25-26 August 2015. RIS was co-organiser of this Interconnection Conference. The programme began with the opening and welcoming remarks by ZHANG Yuyan, Director, IWEP, CASS. The Bangladesh-China-India Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) is complementary to achieving the vision of 'One Belt, One Road'. From RIS, Prof. S.K. Mohanty participated in the conference and made a presentation on the "Emergence of A Regional Growth Epicentre in Asia: Potential of BCIM with the Policy of 'One Belt One Road'".

Financing for Development and Post 2015 Agenda

RIS, in association with the UN in India and the FIDC convened a seminar on 'Financing for Development and Post 2015 Agenda: Way Forward from Addis' on 2 September 2015 in New Delhi. Mr. Jayant Sinha, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India delivered the keynote address. Welcome remarks were delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman RIS gave the chairman's remarks and Ms.

Sujata Mehta, Secretary (M&ER), MEA delivered the special remarks. Ms. Nisha Agarwal, Oxfam India and Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs were the other panellists. Mr. Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, National Foundation for India/Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, and Convenor, FIDC Working Group on Emerging Development Agenda extended the vote of thanks.

India-Korea CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress

Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI released the report entitled 'India-Korea CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress' in New Delhi on 8 September 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran Chairman, RIS and AIC made the opening remarks. Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry made special remarks and highlighted that this report would help the Government when the two sides negotiate to upgrade the agreement. Amb. V.S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS & AIC, the principal investigator of the study, made his presentation. Mr. S. R. Tayal, Former Ambassador of India to Republic of Korea also presented important insights into the India-Korea CEPA.

National Consultation on India-Africa Partnership

Ahead of the third India-Africa Forum Summit, RIS, in collaboration with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Brookings India, organised a National Consultation on "India-Africa Partnership: Priorities and Prospects" on 16 September 2015 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Address. Mr. Navtej Sarna, Secretary (West), MEA, Government of India delivered the Inaugural Address. Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, delivered the keynote address. Remarks were also made by Dr. WPS Sidhu, Senior Fellow, Brookings India, New Delhi and Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head - International Policy & Trade, CII. Dr. Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate and Coordinator, Africa, LAC and UN Centre, IDSA extended the vote of thanks. The various sessions of the consultation deliberated on (i) India-Africa Partnership and Global

Context; (ii) Trade, Investment and Development Issues; (iii) Energy, Climate Change and Maritime Security; and (iv) People-to-People: Education, Civil Society and Social Sector. The consultation ended with closing session chaired by Mr. Tanmaya Lal, Joint Secretary (E&SA), MEA, GoI. Dr. Ruchita Beri presented the conference report. It also had remarks by H.E. Amb. Dr. Hassan E. El Talib, Non-Resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Maldives, Embassy of the Republic of Sudan, New Delhi; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head - International Policy & Trade, CII. Dr. WPS Sidhu, Senior Fellow, Brookings India extended the vote of thanks.

Consultation on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

RIS, in association with the NITI Aayog, Government of India; UN in India; FIDC; and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) held a day long consultation with stakeholders on SDGs in New Delhi on 9 September 2015, ahead of the special session of the UN General Assembly held in New York on 25-27 September 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the welcome address. The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India, Mr. Yuri Afanasiev welcomed the guests. Ms. Sindhushree Khullar, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog delivered the inaugural address. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, made the chairperson's remarks. Mr. Puneet Aggarwal, Joint Secretary (UNES), MEA made special remarks. The concluding remarks in the inaugural session were delivered by Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Chairman of FIDC and Dean, School of International Studies at Jawaharal Nehru University. At this consultation, RIS also released a special issue of its journal Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR) on SDGs. The institute also unveiled a new web page dedicated to SDGs. The technical sessions of the consultation deliberated on (i) SDGs on Health, Agriculture and Nutritional Security and Human Development ; (ii) Science, Innovation and Access to Technology; (iii) SDGs: Inclusive Growth, Gender and Sustainability; (iv) SDGs: Energy and Environment; (iv) SDGs: Role of Industry, Civil Society and Media; and (v) SDGs: Implementation Issues, Monitoring, Role of States and Global Commitments.

Delegation of National Academy of Politics of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at RIS

A seven-member delegation, led by Assistant Prof. Dr. Trinh Duc Thao, Director of Institute of State and Law, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HNAP), visited RIS for an interactive session for future academic collaboration on 15 September 2015. The members of the delegation included: Dr. Nguyen Thi Tuyet Mai, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Leadership and Public Policy, HNAP; Dr. Nguyen Thi Phuong Lan, Lecturer of Institute of Economy, HNAP; Mr. Nguyen Van Duong, MA, PS to Vice President of HNAP in charge of International Cooperation; Mr. Do Khuong Manh Linh, MA, Expert of Centre for Indian Studies, HNAP; and Ms. Vu Van Anh, Expert of International Cooperation, HNAP.

NeST Meeting at UNDP, New York

RIS organised a consultation in collaboration with UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support on South-South and Triangular Cooperation at UNDP Office in New York on 22 September 2015 in which the future work programme of Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) was discussed in detail. Dr. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Lead Advisor, UNDP made the opening remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS made special remarks. Other panellists included Dr. Wang Yihuan, Director, Research Center for International Development (RCID), China Agricultural University (CAU); Mr. Jesus Velazquez Castillo, Delegate of Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations; Ms. Angela Trenton-Mbonde, Senior Advisor, UNAIDS; Dr. Thomas Fues, German Development Institute; and Prof. Manuel Montes, The South Centre.

RIS Events on the Side Lines of United Nations General Assembly, New York

RIS organised two side events alongside United Nations General Assembly in New York. The first side event on The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Southern Perspectives was held on 21 September 2015 at the UN Headquarters in partnership with United Nations Foundation and Centre on International Cooperation, New York University. The meeting was convened in collaboration

with the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations. Welcome remarks were delivered by Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations made opening remarks. Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog delivered the keynote address. Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP delivered the special address. The event was graced by Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN; Ambassador David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN and the cofacilitators of the Open Working Group on SDGs. Senior diplomats and policymakers, members of the permanent delegations to the UN, other UN officials, prominent academics, members of the civil society and the media, from Southern countries participated. The first panel discussion was on 2030 Agenda: What it means for developing countries? The panellists included Prof. Carlos Correa, The South Centre, Geneva; Ms. Sarah F. Cliffe, Director, Centre on International Cooperation, New York University; Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India and Ms. Minh-Thu Pham, Senior Policy Director, UN Foundation. The second panel discussion was on: 2030 Agenda: Challenges and Opportunities for a Rising South. It was moderated by Mr. Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, National Foundation for India. The panellists for this session included Prof. Sanjay Reddy, The New School for Social Research, New York; Ambassador Carlos Sergio Sobral Duarte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN; Dr. Samir Saran, Vice-President, ORF, New Delhi; and Dr. WPS Sidhu, Senior Fellow, Brookings India, New Delhi.

Consultation on Institutional Architecture and Development and Access to Technology

The second side event was organised by RIS in collaboration with the Centre on International Cooperation, New York University was on 'Consultation on Institutional Architecture and Development and Access to Technology' at the New York University Midtown Center on 22 September 2015. The first session was on Institutional Architecture and Development. It was moderated by Dr. WPS Sidhu, Senior Fellow, Brookings India. The speakers included Dr. Thomas Fues, German Development Institute; Dr. Sarah Hearn, Centre on International Cooperation, New York University;

Dr. Reneta Giannini, Senior Researcher, Instituto Igarape; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS. The second session was on Institutionalising TFM: IP and Access to Technology. The panellists for this session were Mr. Amit Narang, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the UN; Dr. Davis O'Connor, UN-DESA; and Prof. Carlos Correa, The South Centre, Mr Samir Saran, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi.

Roundtable on ASEAN India Air Connectivity

AIC at RIS organised a Roundtable on "ASEANIndia Air Connectivity" on 28 September 2015 in New Delhi. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, made the welcome remarks. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA, GoI delivered the keynote address. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered the opening address. Mr. Anil Srivastava, Joint Secretary (AS), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) gave special address. The first session of the roundtable on 'Air Transportation between India and Southeast and East Asia' was chaired by Dr. Sanat Kaul, Chairman, International Foundation for Aviation, Aerospace and Development (IFFAAD), New Delhi. Ms. Pooja Kapur, Joint Secretary (AML), MEA delivered the special address. Prof. Prabir De, RIS and Coordinator AIC, made a presentation on 'ASEAN - India Air Connectivity' study. Dr. Shefali Juneja, Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) made special remarks. The second session on 'ASEAN-India Open Sky: Opportunities and Challenges' was chaired by Mr. Satendra Singh, Former Director-General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), New Delhi. The conference ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant, AIC.

India-Africa Agriculture: Collaboration in Opportunities and Challenges

RIS organised a major international conference on India-Africa Agriculture Cooperation on 6 October 2015 in Hyderabad. The conference aimed to disseminate the findings of our research study on the challenges and opportunities in the India-Africa seed sector collaboration among the key stakeholders including Indian and African representatives the government; trade and industry; and research institutions.

Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Chairman, PPV&FR Authority of India chaired the inaugural session. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome address. Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao, President, National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and CMD, Nuziveedu Seeds delivered the keynote address. Dr. Dominic Glover, Research Fellow, IDS, Sussex, UK made remarks. Dr. Diran Makinde, Director, ABNE, NEPAD, Burkina Faso made special remarks. Dr. Pakki Reddy, ED, Agri Biotech Foundation, Hyderabad extended the vote of thanks.

The Conference had the following Sessions: India-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture, RIS/CABE/EIAR/IDS Study on India-Africa Seed Sector Collaboration, Seed Trade between India and Africa: Opportunities and Challenges, and Dynamics of International Regulations in Seed Sector Collaboration between India and Africa. RIS has undertaken this collaborative research jointly with IDS (Sussex, UK), EIAR (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and CABE (Nairobi, Kenya).

Second Rizal-Nehru Lecture by H.E. Mr. Albert F. Del Rosario, Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Philippines

RIS and Ministry of External Affairs organised the Second Rizal-Nehru Lecture in New Delhi on 14 October 2015. H.E. Mr. Albert F. Del Rosario, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines delivered the lecture on Challenges and Opportunities: The Way Forward for Philippines-India Relations. Ms. Monika Mohta, Additional Secretary (South), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India made special remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and AIC made welcome remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and AIC made opening remarks. Prof. Prabir De, RIS and Coordinator, AIC extended vote of thanks.

Panel Discussion on Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

RIS organised a Panel Discussion on Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in New Delhi on 16 October 2015. Mr. Rajeev Kher, former Commerce Secretary, Government of India initiated the discussion. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. The distinguished Panelists included: Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS; Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International; and Mr. T.C. James of RIS.

India-Africa Partnership: Future Directions

RIS organised a consultation on the “India-Africa Partnership: Future Directions” in association with the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, Brookings India and Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi on 20 October 2015 in the run up to the Third Forum Summit from 25-29 October 2015. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (M&ER) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India made special remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome address.

On this occasion, three special publications were launched by Ms. Sujata Mehta. These included: “India-Africa Partnership Towards Sustainable Development” by RIS; “India-Africa: Common Security Challenges for the Next Decade” by IDSA and “India Africa: Forging a Strategic Partnership” by Brookings. Dr. Ruchita Beri of IDSA extended the vote of thanks.

This consultation had sessions on Geo-Strategic Linkages and India-Africa Partnership; and Trade and Investment, and Sectoral Perspective. Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the valedictory address.

Roundtable on ASEAN-India: Integration and Development & Release of ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015

AIC at RIS, jointly with CII organised the roundtable on ASEAN-India: Integration and Development in New Delhi on 27 October 2015. Amb. Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India delivered the keynote address. He released the AIC-RIS report titled, “ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015.” Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and AIC had delivered the welcome address. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and Mr. Shreekanth Somany, Chairman, CII (NR) and Chairman & Managing Director, Somany Ceramics Limited also addressed the participants.

The first session of the roundtable deliberated on ‘ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership: Progress and Development Dimensions.’ The second session was on ‘New Architecture of Global and Regional Integration: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia’.

Special Address on India-Africa Partnership and Sustainable Developments by H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Hon'ble President, Republic of Liberia

RIS organised a special address on India-Africa Partnership and Sustainable Developments by H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Hon'ble President, Republic of Liberia in New Delhi on 31 October 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi DG, RIS made welcome remarks. Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India delivered special remarks. Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, and concurrently accredited to the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Guinea was also present on this occasion and he also addressed the gathering. Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation

AIC at RIS in association with National Maritime Foundation organised a two day EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in New Delhi on 9 and 10 November 2015. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), MEA made a keynote address.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and AIC made welcome remarks. Ambassador V. S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS made opening remarks. Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Director, NMF and Mr. Deepak Shetty, Director General, DG Shipping made special remarks. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the vote of thanks.

The first session was on EAS Perspectives on the Maritime Domain. The second session deliberated on Emerging Security Architecture in the Asia-Pacific Region. The third session was on Maritime Connectivity: Building for Trade. The fourth session deliberated on issues related to Blue Economy and Maritime Conservation. The fifth session was on Cooperative Delivery of 'Common Public Good' at Sea. Session six discussed the way forward. Prof. Prabir De made concluding remarks and extended the vote of thanks.

Conference on WTO and SDGs: Issues before the Nairobi Ministerial

RIS in partnership with Centre for WTO Studies (IIFT), German Development Institute, FICCI and CII organised a two-day conference to discuss the important issues before

the Nairobi ministerial. The conference was held in New Delhi on 23 and 24 November 2015. Inaugural address was delivered by Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, Prof. Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi made welcome remarks. Mr. Manab Majumdar, Asst. Secy. Gen. (WTO), FICCI; and Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade Policy Division, CII also spoke on this occasion. Mr Johannes Blankenbach, German Development Institute, extended the vote of thanks.

New Frontiers of RIS Research

RIS has launched a new seminar series for senior researchers called Frontier Research Seminar Series at which discussion on the evolving research programme of the institute would be taken up.

- The first seminar in the series on 'Eurasian FTA and India' by Prof. Ram Upendra Das was held on 28 August 2015.
- In the second seminar on 28 September 2015, Prof. S.K. Mohanty presented an outline for the forthcoming RIS World Trade and Development Report (WTDR).

RIS Breakfast Seminar Series

RIS Breakfast Seminar Series is meant to provide a platform to younger faculty members and early-career researchers to disseminate their research findings, discuss ongoing work and receive comments/feedback from experts and peers. Eminent scholars are also invited to speak on subjects of academic and policy relevance. At the same time, distinguished experts are invited to chair these sessions to share their experiences and wisdom. To make these sessions interactive occasionally senior researchers and policymakers are invited as discussants. As part of this series RIS organised the following seminars:

- 'Developments in Trade Theory and Practice' by Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS on 7 April 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS chaired this seminar.
- 'India's Development Cooperation with Ethiopia in Sugar Production: An Assessment' by Mr. Sushil Kumar, Consultant, RIS on 5 May 2015. Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS chaired this seminar.

- ‘An Introduction to CGE Modelling and its Application’ by Mr. Sunando Basu, Research Associate, RIS on 2 June 2015. Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS chaired this seminar.
- ‘Vietnam - China Greater Mekong Sub-regional Framework of Cooperation (GMS)’ by Ms. Rashmi Singh, Consultant, RIS on 11 August 2015. Amb. Jayant Prasad, Visiting Fellow, RIS chaired the Seminar.
- ‘Trade Policy Liberalisation and its Linkage with Trade in India’ by Ms. Aastha Gupta, Research Assistant, RIS on 11 September 2015. Dr. Shahid Ahmed, Head, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia University, chaired the Seminar.

Capacity Building and Training Programmes

- RIS under the ITEC/SCAAP Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised a two-week Capacity Building Programme on Learning South-South Cooperation at New Delhi during 16-27 November 2015.
- Workshops on Trade Policy and Analysis: RIS, jointly with the Centre for Economy, Environment, and Society (CESS), Myanmar, organised the fourth Workshop on ‘Trade Policy and Analysis’ at RIS during 9-13 June 2015 in New Delhi. This programme was supported by IPE Global, UK Aid-Department for International Development (DFID), Knowledge Partnership Programme and Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered the valedictory address. Prof. Prabir De made the closing remarks and also extended the vote of thanks. The third workshop was organised by RIS jointly with Centre for Economy, Environment, and Society (CESS), Myanmar, at Yangon University of Economics, Yangon in association with University of Sussex, UNESCAP, Yangon University of Economics, Trade Sift, and Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNeT) during 11-15 May 2015.

Launch of World Trade and Development Report

RIS organised a panel discussion on ‘Trade, Development,

WTO and Mega FTAs’ in Nairobi on 17 December 2015, on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial Conference, in partnership with the South Centre, Geneva and Commonwealth Secretariat at the KICC, Nairobi. On this occasion, RIS flagship publication the World Trade and Development Report (WTDR) on the theme “Mega Regionals, WTO and New Issues” was also released and discussed. Mrs. Suchitra Durai, High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kenya presided over the panel discussion. The distinguished speakers included, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS; Dr. Carlos Correa, Special Advisor, South Centre, Geneva; Dr. Mohammad Razzaque, Director, Trade Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London; Ms. Sanya Reid Smith, Third World Network, Geneva, among others.

The IBSA Trust Fund as a Tool of South-South Cooperation

RIS organised a seminar on ‘The IBSA Trust Fund as a Tool of South-South Cooperation: Perspective of Emerging Countries’ by Ms. Laura Karina Gutiérrez Matamoros, Research Scholar, International Development Cooperation, Dr. José María Luis Mora Research Institute, Mexico (and Internship Scholar, RIS) in New Delhi on 21 December 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the opening remarks. Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, former Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) chaired the seminar.

ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture

As part of ASEAN-India Eminent Persons’ Lecture Series, AIC at RIS organised the ASEAN-India Eminent Person Lecture on “ASEAN-India: Partnership for Peace and Prosperity” by H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General, ASEAN on 10 December 2015 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. Ambassador V. S. Sheshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS made the opening remarks. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India delivered the special address. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC concluded the session and extended the Vote of Thanks.

Workshop on Clinical Trial Regulations in India

RIS organised a workshop on ‘Clinical Trial Regulations in India’ in New Delhi on 2 December 2015 to discuss

the issues and to share the tentative results of a survey that was conducted by the research team as part of study on the Recent Changes in Clinical Trial Regulations in India introduced consequent to the decision of the Supreme Court in *Swasthya Abhiyan Manch Vs UoI*, and their Impact. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. S. K. Brahmachari, former Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Discussion Meeting on Building a Clean Power Platform through Innovative Finance Policy

RIS organised a Discussion Meeting on Building a Clean Power Platform through Innovative Finance Policy in New Delhi on 18 December 2015. Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS made introductory remarks. Mr. Jeffrey Schub, Executive Director of the Coalition for Green Capital was the lead speaker. Dr. Nitya Nanda, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, RIS were the discussants.

FIDC Regional Consultation at Jaipur

FIDC-RIS organised the third regional consultation in Jaipur on 22-23 December 2015. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the welcome address, in the inaugural session. Mr. A.K. Sahu, Joint Secretary (DPA-II), MEA delivered the inaugural address. Professor V.S. Vyas, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur delivered the keynote address. Dr. Kaustub Bandyopadhyay, Director, PRIA and convener of the FIDC working group on CSOs delivered the vote of thanks.

The key issues that emerged during the two-day consultation were extremely important for developing an Indian narrative on South-South cooperation.

RIS Breakfast Seminar Series

'Debate on Global Development through the lens of the World System Theory' by Mr. Pratyush, Research Assistant, RIS on 2 December 2015. Prof. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi chaired.

Other Events:

- Panel Discussion on Growing Strength of IORA and a Roadmap for the Next Decade on 6 January 2016.
- RIS/FIDC Seminar by Prof. Kaveh Khoshnood from Yale University on 11 January 2016
- FIDC Regional Consultations in Shilong / Patna and Chennai during January 2016.
- Seminar on India-Africa Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation: Special Focus on Seed Sector and Farm Instruments on 21 January 2016.
- RIS / Public Health Foundation of India Conference on South Asia Regional Consultation by Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition on 11 and 12 February 2016
- RIS/Niti Aayog Consultations on SDG Status and Commitments on 22 and 23 February 2016

RIS Publications

A list of RIS publications is given in the Appendix - XIV.

Budget

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, sanctioned the budgetary support of Rs. 6.85 crore to RIS for 2015-16.



Ministry of External Affairs Library

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Library is performing normal duties of a Library as well as a Resource and Information Center for the use of officers and staff members of Ministry of External Affairs at Head Quarters as well as all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The Library is presently functioning from both at its old premises at Patiala House as well as Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan.

Library has over one hundred thousand books, rich resource material and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support policy planning and research in the Ministry of External Affairs. MEA library subscribes / receives and maintains about 300 Periodicals / Journals and Newspaper titles (including on-line journals and databases).

A Library Committee manages library activities including purchase of books and subscription of journals / periodicals and databases. Foreign Secretary constitutes / re-constitutes the Library Committee. The current Library Committee comprises of Joint Secretary (PP & R and GCI) as Chairman, 3 to 4 Director / Deputy Secretaries from territorial divisions as Members and Director (Lib & Info) as Member Secretary. Books submitted on approval by vendors are first screened by library officers before it is put up for the Library Committee meetings. 4 to 6 Library Committee meetings are held every year for selection of books for the Library. Requested / recommended books are procured on priority on day-to-day basis. Books are also procured and supplied to officers through Inter-library loan.

Library services are provided not only to MEA officers and staff members in the ministry and all Indian missions abroad, but we regularly provide library services to Prime Minister's Office (PMO), President's and Vice President's office, Indian Council of World Affairs(ICWA), Indian

Council of cultural Relations (ICCR), National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), National Defence College (NDC), several other Ministries and Departments and also to research scholars of international relations because of its rich and specialized collections on international relations and allied subjects.

All Documentation / Bibliographic Services as well as other library operations and services have been computerized, using integrated library management software "LibSys". Information about all books and documents as well as selected articles from periodicals / journals received in the library are available through Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). We have recently upgraded the library management software to "Web Centric LibSys 7". Library's information can also be accessed through Internet on MEA Library's website: <http://mealib.nic.in>

All new documents received in the library and selected articles from periodicals and journals are being fed on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs. Library provides online / web based services, online journals / periodicals and databases services, e-mail services, book alert and article alert services as well as all kind of most modernized user friendly services to its users. These online databases and journals / periodicals can be accessed on Internet via username and passwords. A list of such titles is regularly circulated at HQ as well as Indian missions and posts abroad and also available on MEA Library's Website: <http://mealib.nic.in>

To provide Documentation, Bibliographic, Current Awareness / SDI and Reference Services to its users, Library regularly issue various bulletins, i.e. Recent Additions, Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin, and Chronicle of Event. In addition to this, library has started providing services through various online databases /online services: i.e. EIU online services, Business Monitor International, Marketline Advantage, Press Reader, JSTOR Archival

database, PROQUEST ABI Informa Complete, PROQUEST-Historical Newspaper Archives, Janes'online services, Keessing's World News Archives, etc.

The Library in cooperation with NIC has brought out a full text CD-ROM version of Annual Report of Ministry of External Affairs [from 1948 to 1998-99] and Foreign Affairs Record [1955 to 1999].

MEA Library has very good collection of rare books. A catalogue of some selected rare books has already been prepared and printed. These rare books are also kept in a separate rare books library at JNB.

We have recently completed a project to publish / re-print "India's Bilateral Treaties and Agreements including joint declarations and communiqués" from 1947 to 2015 and this publication is likely to be released very soon in 18 volumes.

MEA Library also provides practical training to the students of Library Science studying in various Institutions of Delhi from time to time. On request from ICWA, one MEA library officer has also been deputed recently to ICWA Library to upgrade the library and its services.

MEA Library is an institutional member of Indian Library Association (ILA) Indian Association of Special Libraries

and Information Centre (IASLIC), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Special Libraries Association (SLA). Director (Lib & Info) and other officers regularly attended / participated in International and National Conferences / Seminars / Meetings of ILA, IASLIC, IFLA, SLA, etc. from time to time. Dr S S Dhaka, Director (Lib & Info) has been elected as President of SLA (Asian Chapter) for the term 2015-2017. He is also a SC member of IFLA-GIOPS and President of Asian Library Association. Shri Sanjay Kumar Bihani, ALIO is elected as Secretary of IFLA -RSCAO for the term 2015-2017 and SC member of IFLA-GIOPS for 2015-2019.

Archives & Record Management

Archives and Record Management division of the Ministry of External Affairs deals with all the matters related to archives and record management. During the period between 1 April 2015 to 30 November 2015, 2679 files have been handed over to National Archives of India for appraising after obtaining due approval from concerned Head of the Departments. Apart from these, 2737 ordinary files have been destroyed and 5555 files have been sent for the approval for declassification. Six compactors with 282 racks were cleaned by seven record sorters and total space in the compactors is for 26230 files.



The total budget outlay for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for 2015-16 was Rs 14966.83 crores (cr.) which was 1.67 % more than the budget allocated for 2014-15 (Rs. 14730.39 cr). (Appendix XV)

A major part of this Budget is committed towards technical and economic cooperation with other countries through both Plan and Non-Plan funds.

Plan

The Plan component of MEA's Budget caters to several large developmental projects in the areas of infrastructure, hydroelectric power projects, agriculture, industry etc., which are undertaken in the neighbouring countries of India like Bhutan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar.

Bhutan is one of our principal beneficiaries from the Plan budget head. Many important hydroelectric power projects like Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Projects - I and II and the Mangdechu Hydroelectric Project are been implemented.

Afghanistan is also another important destination for funds from Plan component. The construction of the Kabul to Pul-e-Khumri double circuit transmission line in Afghanistan has been completed. Two sub-stations are now being constructed at Doshi and Charikar as additional components of this project.

There has also been considerable progress on the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project in Myanmar.

Non-Plan

The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the financial year 2015-16 were Bhutan (Rs. 1200 cr), Bangladesh (Rs. 250 cr), Afghanistan (Rs. 550 cr.), Sri Lanka (Rs. 500 cr), Nepal (Rs. 420 cr), Myanmar (Rs. 120 cr) and African countries (Rs. 200 cr). Some other beneficiaries include Maldives, Mongolia, countries from Latin American, Eurasia and other regions.

The Ministry had revenue receipts from issuance of passports, visa fees and other receipts to the tune of Rs 2079.59 crores upto 30 September 2015. The Revenue receipts were as follows:

Minor Head	Revenue Receipt (in crores.)
Passports	1110.83
Visa Fees	757.10
Others	211.66
Total	2079.59

A sectoral analysis (Appendix XVI) of the budget allocation as per the Budget Estimates of 2015-16 show that out of a total allocation of Rs. 14966.83 cr , 60.85% (Rs. 9107.02 cr) of the budget was spent on projects under Technical and Economic cooperation and Rs. 3398.80 cr as loans and advances to Foreign Governments. The Missions and Posts were allocated 15% (Rs. 2265.01 cr) of the budget. The rest of the allocation was on Special Diplomatic Expenditure (11%), Passport & Emigration (4%), International Organisations (3%) and Grant to Institutions(1%), Capital Outlay(2%), MEA Secretariat (2%) and others(1%).



Appendices

APPENDIX - I

TREATIES/CONVENTIONS/AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BY INDIA WITH OTHER COUNTRIES DURING THE YEAR 2015.

A: Multilateral

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
1.	Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization		16 April 2015		Ministry of Defence
2.	International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001		25 March 2015		Ministry of Shipping
3.	Treaty for the Establishment of a BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement	15 July 2014	25 March 2015		Ministry of Finance
4.	Agreement on the New Development Bank	15 July 2014	25 March 2015		Ministry of Finance
5.	Agreement on Trade in Services under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations	12 November 2014	6 April 2015		Ministry of Commerce
6.	Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of the BRICS Network University	18 November 2015		18 November 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
7.	Memorandum of Understanding on the Creation of the Joint BRICS Website	9 July 2015		9 July 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
8.	Memorandum of Understanding in Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency among BRICS	20 November 2015		20 November 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
9.	Agreement among the Government of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture.	9 July 2015		9 July 2015	Ministry of Culture
10.	Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal	15 June 2015	10 July 2015		Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
11.	Agreement on Investment under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations	12 November 2014	6 April 2015		Ministry of Commerce

APPENDIX -I

Sl. No.	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
12.	Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 of ILO		10 July 2015	9 October 2015	Ministry of Shipping
13.	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Articles of Agreement	29 June 2015	16 December 2015		Ministry of Finance
14.	Agreement on Trade in Services under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations	13 November 2014	6 April 2015		Ministry of Commerce and Industry

B: Bilateral

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
1.	Memorandum Of Understanding Between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Textiles, Clothing, Investment, Compliance and Skill Development.	Afghanistan	7 January 2015	8 January 2016		Ministry of Textiles
2.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Albania	27 November 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
3.	Social Security Agreement between the Republic of India and Australia	Australia	18 November 2014	9 October 2015		Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
4.	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	Australia	5 September 2014	12 November 2015	13 November 2015	Department of Atomic Energy

(Contd...)

APPENDIX -I

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
5.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in Sport	Australia	5 September 2014		5 September 2014	Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs
6.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia on cooperation in the field of Water Resources Management	Australia	5 September 2014		5 September 2014	Ministry of Water Resources
7.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Technical Vocational Education and Training Between the National Skill Development Corporation, Republic of India and The Commonwealth of Australia	Australia	5 September 2014		5 September 2014	Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
8.	Technical Arrangement on Sharing White Shipping Information between the Republic of India as represented by the Indian Navy and the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on behalf of the Australian Border Force	Australia	2 October 2015		2 October 2015	Ministry of Shipping
9.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Austria	Austria	04 February 2013	2 April 2013	1 July 2015	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
10.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources Development and Management	Bahrain	22 February 2015		22 February 2015	Ministry of Water Resources
11.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs, Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Chemicals.	Bahrain	2 December 2015			Ministry of Home Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
12.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters	Bangladesh	16 May 1974	25 May 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
13.	Protocol to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters	Bangladesh	6 September 2011	25 May 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
14.	Protocol for Exchange of Instruments of Ratification regarding the India - Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 and Protocol of 2011 to the Land Boundary Agreement.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
15.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Coast Guards of the Republic of India and Bangladesh Coast Guard of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Establishment of Collaborative Relationship to Combat transnational illegal activities at sea and development regional cooperation between the India Coast Guard and Bangladesh Coast Guard.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015			Ministry of Defence
16.	Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		1 April 2015	Ministry of Commerce
17.	Agreement between Bureau of Indian Standards and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution on Cooperation in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
18.	Protocol on Operation of Passenger Bus Service between Guwahati in India and Dhaka in Bangladesh in Terms of Agreement between Government of the Republic of India and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
19.	The Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the year 2015-2017.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of Culture
20.	Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Republic of India (GoI) and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) for Extending a New Line of Credit (LoC) of US Dollar 2.0 Billion by GOI to GOB	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
21.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Shipping Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh relating to the use of Chittagong and Mongla Ports for Movement of Goods to and from India.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015			Ministry of Shipping
22.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh in the field of Blue Economy and Maritime Co-operation in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean Region	Bangladesh	6 June 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
23.	Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Bilateral Cooperation for Prevention of Human Trafficking Especially Trafficking in Women and Children; Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
24.	Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Republic of India and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Prevent and Counter Smuggling and Circulation of Fake Currency Notes.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of Finance
25.	Memorandum of Understanding on between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh for cooperation on Establishing Indian Economic Zone in Bangladesh.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of Commerce
26.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Department of Environment and Forests of the People's Republic of Bangladesh relating to Grant Assistance from Government of India under the India endowment for Climate Change in South Asia (IECC-SA) for installation 70,000 in improved cook stoves (ICS) in selected areas of Bangladesh.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
27.	Memorandum of Understanding between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India, and University of Dhaka, Bangladesh for Joint research on Oceanography of the Bay of Bengal	Bangladesh	6 June 2015			Department of Science and Technology
28.	Statement of Intent between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India on Education Cooperation.	Bangladesh				Ministry of Human Resource Development
29.	Handing over of a Letter of Consent to the Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India by Chairman, Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) of Bangladesh to Commence operations in Bangladesh by LIC	Bangladesh	6 June 2015			Life Insurance Corporation of India

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
30.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Regulation of Motor Vehicle Passenger Traffic between the Two Countries.	Bangladesh	6 June 2015		6 June 2015	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
31.	Agreement on Coastal Shipping between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	Bangladesh	6 June 2015			Ministry of Shipping
32.	Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Barbados	Barbados	6 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
33.	Roadmap for India-Belarus Cooperation	Belarus	3 June 2015			
34.	Protocol amending the agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Property (Capital) of the 27th of September, 1997	Belarus	3 June 2015	31 July 2015	19 November 2015	Ministry of Finance
35.	Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Indian Standards and the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the field of Standardization and Information Support	Belarus	3 June 2015			Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
36.	Memorandum of Understanding between Prasar Bharati (PB) and the National State Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus (Beltelecompany) for Cooperation on Broadcasting	Belarus	3 June 2015			Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
37.	Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Cooperation between the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus	Belarus	3 June 2015			Ministry of Finance
38.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India and the Belarusian State concern for Manufacturing and Marketing of Light Industry Goods (concern "Bellegprom")	Belarus	3 June 2015			Ministry of Textiles
39.	Extradition Treaty of between Government of the Republic of India and Government of Brazil	Brazil	16 April 2008	14 August 2008	20 August 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
40.	The Programme for Cooperation in the fields of Science, Education and Culture between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2015-2017	Bulgaria	4 September 2015		4 September 2015	Ministry of Culture
41.	Financial and General Terms Regulating the Exchange under the programme for cooperation in the field of Science, Education and Culture between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2015-2017.	Bulgaria	4 September 2015			Ministry of Human Resource Development
42.	Memorandum of Understanding between Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust and Antwerp/Flanders Training Centre.	Belgium	12 February 2015			Ministry of Shipping
43.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, of the Republic India and the Competent Belgian authorities at federal and regional level for energy, Government of Belgium	Belgium	29 September 2015		29 September 2015	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
44.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Cambodia on Tourism Cooperation	Cambodia	16 September 2015		16 September 2015	Ministry of Tourism

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
45.	Memorandum of Understanding on setting up of Centre of Excellence in Software Development & Training.	Cambodia			5 August 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
46.	Agreement between National Institute of Posts, Telecoms and ICT Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Department of Electronics and Information Technology Government of the Republic of India for Setting up a Sustainable IT Infrastructure for Advanced IT Training using conventional, Virtual classroom and e-Learning Technologies in CLMV/ ASEAN	Cambodia	29 April 2015		29 April 2015	
47.	Agreement on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Cambodia.	Cambodia	16 September 2015		16 September 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
48.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness of Canada on Cooperation in the Area of Cyber Security	Canada	26 March 2015		26 March 2015	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
49.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Canadian Space Agency Concerning Cooperation in the field of Outer Space	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	Indian Space Research Organization
50.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways and the Department of Transport of Canada on Technical Cooperation in Rail Transportation	Canada	15 April 2015			Ministry of Railways

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
51.	Letter of Intent between Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Grand Challenges, Canada for the Implementation of DBT-GCC collaboration in Disease Elimination and Saving Brains Initiative	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology
52.	Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in Skill Development for Aviation- Non Technical and Healthcare Sector between National Skilled Development Corporation (NSDC) and Seneca College, Toronto	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
53.	Memorandum of Understanding in Skill Development for Water Sector between National Skill Development Organization Sir Sandford Fleming College, Lindsay	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
54.	Memorandum of Understanding in Skill Development for Automotive and Construction between National Skill Development and Algonquin College, Ottawa	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
55.	Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in Skill Development in Sports Sector (Tripartite MoU- Bow Valley College, Alberta - Camosun College, Victoria and NSDC) between National Skill Development Organization and Bow Valley College, Alberta and Camosun College, Victoria, BC	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
56.	Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in Skill Development for Hydrocarbon Sector between National Skill Development Organization College of New Caledonia, Prince George BC	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
57.	Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in Skill Development for Hydrocarbon Sector between National Skilled Development Corporation (NSDC) and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Alberta	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
58.	Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in Skill Development for Automotive and Agriculture Sector between National Skilled Development Corporation (NSDC) and Durham College, Toronto	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
59.	Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in Skill Development for Apparel and Textiles Sector between Fanshawe College, London, Ontario	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
60.	Memorandum of Understanding for Aviation Sector – Technical between National Skill Development Organization and Canadore College, North Bay, Ontario	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
61.	Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in Skill Development for Healthcare Sector between National Skilled Development Corporation (NSDC) and Camosun College, Victoria, BC	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
62.	Sector Skills Memorandum of Understanding for IT, Telecom and Electronics	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
63.	Sector Skills Memorandum of Understanding for Green Jobs	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
64.	Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in Skill Development with Colleges and Institutes, Canada	Canada	15 April 2015		15 April 2015	National Skill Development Organization
65.	Pre-independence Extradition Treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Chile.	Chile	26 January 1897		28 April 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs
66.	Work Plan for Bilateral Technical Cooperation between the Agriculture & Livestock Service of Chile and the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation of India for 2015-2016.	Chile	12 June 2015		12 June 2015	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
67.	2015-2020 Space Cooperation Outline between ISRO and China National Space Administration (CNSA).	China	15 May 2015		15 May 2015	Department of Space
68.	Agreement on Audio-Visual Co-Production between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Republic of India and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China	China	18 September 2014	1 May 2015		Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
69.	Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of Consulates-General at Chengdu and Chennai and the Extension of the Consular district of the Consulate-General of the Republic of India in Guangzhou to include Jiangxi province.	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
70.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China on cooperation in the field of Vocational Education and Skill Development.	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
71.	Action Plan between the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Republic of India and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Setting up of Mahatma Gandhi National Institute for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in Ahmadabad/Gandhinagar Gujarat	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Human Resource Development

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
72.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on Consultative Mechanism for Cooperation in Trade Negotiations	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Commerce
73.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
74.	Action Plan between the National Railway Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India on Enhancing Cooperation in the Railway Sector (2015-2016)	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Railways
75.	Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China in the field of Education.	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Human Resource Development
76.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Land and Resources of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the fields of Mining And Mineral Sector	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Mines
77.	Final Protocol between the Export Inspection Council, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Republic of India, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China for Health and Safety Regulation on Importing Indian Rapeseed Meal.	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Commerce

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
78.	Memorandum of Understanding between Doordarshan and China Central Television on Cooperation in the field of Broadcasting	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
79.	Agreement between the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and the National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the field of Tourism	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Tourism
80.	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Establishing India-China Think-Tanks Forum	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Human Resource Development
81.	Memorandum of Understanding between NITI Aayog of the Government of India and the Development Research Centre, State Council of the People's Republic of China	China	15 May 2015			NITI Ayog
82.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Republic of India and the China Earthquake Administration of the People's Republic of China Concerning Cooperation in the field of Earthquake Sciences and Earthquake Engineering	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Earth Sciences
83.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Republic of India and the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the field of Ocean Sciences, Ocean Technology, Climate Change, Polar Science and Cryosphere.	China	15 May 2015			Department of Science & Technology
84.	Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation between Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines, of the Republic of India and China Geological Survey, Ministry of Land and Resources of People's Republic of China in Geosciences	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Mines

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
85.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on Establishment of the State/ Provincial Leaders' Forum	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
86.	Agreement on the Establishment of Sister-State/Province Relations between State Government of Karnataka of the Republic of India and Provincial Government of Sichuan of People's Republic of China.	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
87.	Agreement on the Establishment of Sister City Relations between Chennai, Republic of India and Chongqing, People's Republic of China	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Urban Development
88.	Agreement on the Establishment of Sister City Relations between Hyderabad, Republic of India and Qingdao, People's Republic of China	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Urban Development
89.	Agreement on the Establishment of Sister City Relations between Aurangabad, Republic of India and Dunhuang, People's Republic of China	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Urban Development
90.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Fudan University on the Establishment of a Center for Gandhian and Indian Studies	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of Culture
91.	Memorandum Of Understanding Between Indian Council for Cultural Relations And Yunnan Minzu University on the Establishment of a Yoga College	China	15 May 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
92.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Foreign Service Institute (Manuel Maria De Peralta), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica.	Costa Rica	16 March 2015		16 March 2015	Ministry of External Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
93.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Republic of Costa Rica on Technical Cooperation.	Costa Rica	21 July 2015			Department of Science & Technology
94.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.	Croatia	12 February 2014	12 August 2014	6 February 2015	Ministry of Finance
95.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the Republic of India on the Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Cuba	23 March 2015	1 May 2015	7 July 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
96.	Protocol of the 10th Session of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation between India and the Czech Republic	Czech Republic	28 January 2015			Ministry of Commerce & Industry
97.	Memorandum of Understanding between The Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of the Republic of India and Prague Zoo, the Czech Republic	Czech Republic	9 January 2015			Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment & Forests
98.	Memorandum of Understanding (Strategic Partnership) between Sakkarbaug Zoo, Gujarat, and Prague Zoo.	Czech Republic	12 January 2015			Government of Gujarat
99.	Protocol between the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises of India and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Czech Republic on Cooperation in the Field of Heavy Industry	Czech Republic	24 November 2015			Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
100.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Government of the Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	17 February 2015		17 February 2015	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
101.	Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) under the provision of Memorandum of Understanding with Ecuador	Ecuador				
102.	MoU between Government of Republic of India and Government for the Arab Republic of Egypt on Cooperation in the field of Tourism	Egypt	24 August 2015			Ministry of Tourism
103.	MoU between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Republic of India and the National Research Center (NRC), Egypt for Scientific and Technical Cooperation	Egypt	24 August 2015			Department of Science & Technology
104.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Ethiopia	21 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
105.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Government of Finland	Finland	19 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
106.	Memorandum of Understanding between the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) India, and the National Commission for Vocational Qualifications (Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle - CNCV) to Facilitate Exchange of Information and Knowledge about of Skill Qualification Registers.	France				Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
107.	Letter of Intent between Center for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of Ayush and Universite de Strasbourg/Unistra (France)	France	9 April 2015			Ministry of AYUSH
108.	Guarantee Agreement between Agence Francaise de Developpement (“AFD”) and INDIA, acting by its President (“Guarantor”) Financing of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).	France	9 April 2015			Ministry of Power

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
109.	Pre-Engineering Agreement between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and Areva NP SAS, Paris, France for Pre engineering works Related to Desig, Engineering and Regulatory Aspects for the Construction of 2EPR Units of the Nuclear Power Plant at Jaitapur in Maharashtra, India.	France	10 April 2015			Department of Atomic Energy
110.	Memorandum of Understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of the French Republic	France	10 April 2015		10 April 2015	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
111.	Protocol between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the French National Railways (SNCF) on cooperation in “Semi High Speed Rail & Station Renovation”.	France	10 April 2015			Ministry of Railways
112.	Administrative Arrangement in the field of Heritage between the Ministry of Culture of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture and Communication of the French Republic.	France	9 April 2015		9 April 2015	Ministry of Culture
113.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Biotechnology (India) and the University Pierre Et Marie Curie and the Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique on Collaboration for the establishment of a National Institute of Marine Biology and Biotechnology in India.	France	10 April 2015		10 April 2015	Department of Science & Technology
114.	Letter of Intent on Increasing Cooperation in the Tourism Sector between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic.	France	9 April 2015			Ministry of Tourism

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
115.	Memorandum of Understanding between the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi and the Ecole Natonale Superieure d' Architecture de Paris la Villette.	France	9 April 2015		9 April 2015	
116.	Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Sports between Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Republic of India and the French Minister of Urban Resources, Youth Affairs and Sports.	France	9 April 2015		9 April 2015	Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs
117.	Letter of Intent between the Archaeological Survey of India and the Institut national de recherches archeologiques preventives (Inrap)	France	9 April 2015		9 April 2015	Ministry of Culture
118.	Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) regarding Phases C/D/E of the Earth observation satellite mission dedicated to the tropical atmosphere and referred to as "MEGHA-TROPIQUES".	France	8 April 2015			Department of Space
119.	Programme between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Centre National D'etudes Spatiales for a Reinforced Cooperation in Space Activities.	France	10 April 2015		10 April 2015	Department of Space
120.	Letter of Intent between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India and University of Strasbourg, France	France	9 April 2015			Ministry of AYUSH
121.	Memorandum of Understanding between ISRO, French National Space Agency (CNES) and French National Centre for Aerospace Research (ONERA) regarding their Cooperation for KA Band Propagation Experiment Over Indian Tropical Region.	France	8 April 2015		8 April 2015	Department of Space

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
122.	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCN) Association Nationale et Villes a secteurs sauvegardes et proteges (ANVPAH)	France	9 April 2015			Ministry of Urban Development
123.	Twinning Arrangement between Udaipur Palace and Chateau Chambord	France	10 April 2015			Ministry of Urban Development
124.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Science & Technology between Department of Science and Technology, India and French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	France	10 April 2015			Department of Science & Technology
125.	Memorandum of Understanding between Larsen & Toubro and AREVA for Localisation of Manufacture of Parts for Nuclear Power Plants	France	10 April 2015			Commercial agreement
126.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India on Indo-German Development Cooperation Regarding the Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
127.	Arrangement between the Government of Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of India on the Gainful Occupation of Family Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post	Germany	25 March 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
128.	Memorandum of Understanding between University Grants Commission (UGC), India and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany on Indo-German Partnerships in Higher Education (IGP).	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Human Resource Development

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
129.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India, and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft Zur Forderung der angewandten Forschung e. V., as legal entity for its Fraunhofer-Institut fur System-und Innovationsforschung (ISI), Karlsruhe.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises
130.	Joint Announcement on Setting up a FAST-TRACK system for German Companies in India.	Germany	5 October 2015			
131.	Joint Declaration of Intent on the further Development of the Cooperation in the Field of Railways between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India & Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Germany .	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Railways
132.	Joint Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of India, on one hand, and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Republic of Germany, on the other hand, on Cooperation in the Field of Skill Development and Vocational Education and Training.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
133.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Home Affairs of Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on Security Cooperation.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
134.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India and the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the Promotion of German as a Foreign Language in India and the Promotion of Modern Indian Languages in Germany.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Human Resource Development
135.	Summary Record of the Negotiations on Development Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany held in New Delhi on 28-29 September 2015	Germany	5 October 2015			
136.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Carriage of In-Flight Security Officers	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Civil Aviation
137.	Joint Declaration between the Ministry of Science and Technology (Government of the Republic of India) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Government of the Federal Republic of Germany) on the Extension of the Tenure of the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC)	Germany	5 October 2015			Department of Science & Technology
138.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/ MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
139.	Letter of Intent between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy of the Republic of India on Indo-German Development Cooperation regarding Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership	Germany	14 April 2015		14 April 2015	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
140.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development	Germany	16 April 2016		16 April 2016	Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD)
141.	Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development of the Federal Republic of Germany on Indo-German Development Cooperation regarding Indo-German Skill Development Project	Germany	16 April 2016		16 April 2016	Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
142.	Joint Declaration between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of India on the continuation of the cooperation in the field of Advanced Training of Corporate Executives and Junior Executives from India.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Commerce & Industry
143.	Joint Statement of Intent on Cooperation in Food Safety between the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (FIRA) and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
144.	Joint Statement of Intent between the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) on Cooperation in Food Safety.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
145.	Memorandum of Understanding between the German Agribusiness Alliance and Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) on Cooperation in Agricultural Studies.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
146.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW), Government of India and the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) of the Federal Republic of Germany on Plant Protection Products.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW)
147.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India, and Fraunhofer Society, Germany on cooperation in the Field of Manufacturing.	Germany	5 October 2015		5 October 2015	Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises
148.	Memorandum of Understanding between The Helmholtz Association, Germany and Earth System Science Organisation- Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Republic of India for Cooperation in the field of Earth System Sciences	Germany	7 April 2015		7 April 2015	Ministry of Earth Sciences
149.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	Guatemala	28 May 2015	9 October 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
150.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	Hong Kong	20 January 2015	11 March 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
151.	Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Republic of India on the Establishment of Nalanda University.	Indonesia	14 March 2015		14 March 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
152.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia on New and Renewable Energy Cooperation.	Indonesia	2 November 2015		2 November 2015	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
153.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Indonesia on Cooperation on Culture.	Indonesia	2 November 2015		2 November 2015	Ministry of Culture
154.	Memorandum of Understanding between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, the Government of the Republic of India and Udayana University, Bali on the Establishment of an Academic Chair in Ayurveda.	Indonesia	4 November 2015		4 November 2015	Ministry of AYUSH
155.	Exchange of notes on Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	Indonesia	25 January 2011		3 April 2014	Ministry of Home Affairs
156.	Exchange of notes on Extradition Treaty	Indonesia	25 January 2011			Ministry of Home Affairs
157.	Arrangement between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia concerning Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2015-2018	Indonesia	2 November 2015		2 November 2015	Ministry of Culture
158.	Agreement to Facilitate issuance of visas between the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of the Republic of India.	Iran	18 December 2015	8 January 2016		Ministry of External Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
159.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran over Partnership of India in Development Plan of Chabahar port May 6, 2015 Corresponding to Ordibehesht 16, 1394	Iran	6 May 2015			Ministry of Shipping
160.	Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Israel	27 February 2014	25 April 2014	1 March 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs
161.	Protocol amending the Convention and the Protocol between the Republic of India and the State of Israel for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income and on Capital	Israel	14 October 2015			Ministry of Finance
162.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel for the years 2015-2018	Israel	16 October 2015			Ministry of Culture
163.	Joint Statement on IT Cooperation between Ministry of Communication and & Information Technology of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan	Japan	30 April 2015			Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
164.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology.	Japan	12 December 2015		1 January 2016	Ministry of Defence
165.	India and Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership Working Together for Peace and Prosperity of the Indo-Pacific Region and the World.	Japan	12 December 2015			
166.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information.	Japan	12 December 2015		12 December 2015	Ministry of Defence

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
167.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan on High Speed Railways	Japan	12 December 2015			Ministry of Railways
168.	Memorandum concerning the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	Japan	12 December 2015			Department of Atomic Energy
169.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan on Medical Products Regulation Dialogue and Cooperation Framework.	Japan	11 December 2015		11 December 2015	Ministry of Health
170.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on income.	Japan	11 December 2015			Ministry of Finance
171.	Memorandum of Understanding for Academic collaboration between National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA), India.	Japan	9 December 2015		9 December 2015	
172.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan on Technological cooperation in Rail Sector.	Japan	11 December 2015		11 December 2015	Ministry of Railways
173.	Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Forest and Forestry between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan	Japan	11 December 2015		11 December 2015	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
174.	Memorandum of Understanding on Technological Cooperation between Research Design and Standards Organization, India and Railway Technical Research Institute, Japan	Japan	9 December 2015		9 December 2015	Research Design and Standards Organization
175.	Statement of Intent for Analysing Issues related to the Energy Sector on the Mutual Understanding and Co-operative Basis	Japan	9 December 2015		9 December 2015	
176.	Letter of Intent the Strategic International Cooperation Program between Japan Science and Technology Agency and Department of Science and Technology	Japan	11 December 2015			Department of Science and Technology
177.	Letter of Intent Toward Establishing a Young Researcher Fellowship Program between the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India	Japan	11 December 2015			Department of Science and Technology
178.	Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Education between the Ministry of Human Resources and Development of Republic of India and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.	Japan	October 2015			Ministry of Human Resources and Development
179.	Sector Skills Memorandum of Understanding for Green Jobs	Jordan	11 October 2015			
180.	Cooperation Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Jordan News Agency (PETRA) on exchange of News.	Jordan	11 October 2015		11 October 2015	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
181.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Maritime Transport	Jordan	11 October 2015			Ministry of Shipping
182.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute [FSI], Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and & the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy[JID], Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Jordan	11 October 2015			Ministry of External Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
183.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Cooperation in the field of IT & Electronics	Jordan	11 October 2015		11 October 2015	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
184.	Cultural Exchange Programme for 2015-17	Jordan	11 October 2015			Ministry of Culture
185.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Indian Standards [BIS] and the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization [JSMO] for Cooperation in the fields of Standardization and Conformity Assessment	Jordan	11 October 2015			Bureau of Indian Standards
186.	Cooperation Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Jordan News Agency (PETRA) on Exchange of News.	Jordan	11 October 2015		11 October 2015	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
187.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Kazakhstan	8 July 2015	10 October 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
188.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of India on Defence and Military Technical Cooperation.	Kazakhstan	8 July 2015	29 October 2015		Ministry of Defence
189.	Joint Work Plan between the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), and the Kazagroinnovations JSC (KAI), Kazakhstan in the field of Agricultural Research and Education for the Years 2016-2017	Kazakhstan	7 July 2015		7 July 2015	Ministry of Agriculture

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
190.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and Kazakhstan TemirZholy on Technical Cooperation in the field of Railways.	Kazakhstan	8 July 2015		8 July 2015	Ministry of Railways
191.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Cooperation on Physical Culture and Sports.	Kazakhstan	8 July 2015		8 July 2015	Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs
192.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Government of Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	19 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
193.	Memorandum of Understanding between LLP "Kazakd Utility Systems" and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	Kazakhstan	7 July 2015		7 July 2015	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)
194.	Memorandum of Understanding between National Export and Investment Agency "Kaznex Invest" JSC and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	Kazakhstan	7 July 2015		7 July 2015	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)
195.	Memorandum of Understanding between National Export and Investment Agency "Kaznex Invest" JSC and Invest India".	Kazakhstan	7 July 2015		7 July 2015	DIPP
196.	Protocol of the 12th Meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Government Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation	Kazakhstan	7 July 2015			Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
197.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Government of Kenya	Kenya	19 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
198.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	Korea	18 May 2015	22 June 2015		Ministry of Finance

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
199.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Audio-Visual Co-Production	Korea	18 May 2015	22 June 2015		Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
200.	Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the National Security Council Secretariat of the Republic of India and the Office of National Security of the Republic of Korea	Korea	18 May 2015			Ministry of Home Affairs
201.	Memorandum Of Understanding between the Ministry of Power of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea concerning Cooperation in the field of Electric Power Development and New Energy Industries	Korea	18 May 2015			Ministry of Power
202.	Memorandum Of Understanding between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Youth Matters	Korea	18 May 2015			Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs
203.	Framework of Cooperation in the Field of Road Transport and Highways between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea	Korea	18 May 2015			Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
204.	Memorandum Of Understanding between the Ministry of Shipping of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Fields of Maritime Transport and Logistics	Korea	18 May 2015			Ministry of Shipping
205.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Government of Republic of Korea.	Korea	15 October 2015		15 October 2015	Ministry of Civil Aviation

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
206.	Arrangement between The Central Board of Excise and Customs of the Republic of India and The Korea Customs Service of the Republic of Korea regarding Mutual Recognition of the Respective Authorized Economic Operator Programs.	Korea	8 October 2015		8 October 2015	Ministry of Finance
207.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Defence Cooperation	Kyrgyz Republic	12 July 2015	29 October 2015		Ministry of Defence
208.	Memorandum on Mutual Understanding and Cooperation in the field of Elections between the Election Commission of India and the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic.	Kyrgyz Republic	12 July 2015		12 July 2015	Election Commission
209.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Cooperation in the field of Culture, Arts, Youth, Sports and Mass Media.	Kyrgyz Republic	12 July 2015		12 July 2015	Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs
210.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic (The Centre for Standardization and Metrology/CSM).	Kyrgyz Republic	12 July 2015		12 July 2015	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
211.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of textiles, clothing and Fashion Industry with Kyrgyz Republic.	Kyrgyz Republic	17 March 2015		17 March 2015	Ministry of Textiles
212.	Protocol of 7th Session of India-Kyrgyzstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation	Kyrgyz Republic	17 March 2015		17 March 2015	Ministry of Commerce & Industry
213.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic on Cooperation in the field of Textiles.	Kyrgyz Republic	17 March 2015	3 September 2015		Ministry of Textiles

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
214.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic and the company BHEL on Cooperation in the field of Hydropower	Kyrgyz Republic	17 March 2015		17 March 2015	BHEL
215.	Agreement on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) between the Government of the Republic of India and Lao PDR	Lao PDR	18 September 2015		18 September 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
216.	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India the Government of Malaysia for the period 2015-2020.	Malaysia	23 November 2015		23 November 2015	Ministry of Culture
217.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Cooperation in the area of Performance Management, Project Delivery and Monitoring related to Government Programmes & Delivery.	Malaysia	23 November 2015		23 November 2015	
218.	Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Services Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and Foreign Services Institute of Maldives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Republic of Maldives.	Maldives	11 October 2015		11 October 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
219.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Youth & Sports Government of the Republic of Maldives	Maldives	11 October 2015		11 October 2015	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
220.	Programme for Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for the Years 2015-2018	Mauritius	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of Culture

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
221.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	Mauritius	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
222.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on Cooperation in the field of Ocean Economy	Mauritius	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of Commerce
223.	Protocol between the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry Agriculture of Republic of India and the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security of Republic of Mauritius for the Importation of Fresh Mango from India	Mauritius	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of Agriculture
224.	Memorandum of Understanding for the Improvement in Sea and Air Transportation Facilities at Agalega Island of Mauritius.	Mauritius	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
225.	Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Mongolia	17 May 2015	14 July 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
226.	Air Service Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia.	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
227.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on Cooperation in the field of Animal Health and Dairy.	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Agriculture
228.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
229.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on the Establishment of Cyber Security Training Centre in the Ministry of Defence of Mongolia	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
230.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on the Establishment of India-Mongolia Friendship Secondary School in Mongolia	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Human Resource Development
231.	Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia Cooperation in the field of Culture for the Years 2015-2018	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Culture
232.	Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the National Security Council of the Republic of India and the National Security Council of Mongolia	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Home Affairs
233.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
234.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Energy of the Government of Mongolia on Co-operation in the field of Renewable Energy	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
235.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Justice of Mongolia for enhancing Cooperation in Border Guarding, Policing and Surveillance	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of Home Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
236.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Tata Memorial Center of India and the National Cancer Center of Mongolia for Gifting Bhabhatron-II Telecobalt Unit along with a Radiotherapy Simulator	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Department of Atomic Energy
237.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia	Mongolia	17 May 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
238.	Agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on Exemption from Visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service passports	Morocco	17 November 2015	7 December 2015	21 January 2016	Ministry of External Affairs
239.	Memorandum of Understanding between FICCI and CGEM (General Confederation for Moroccan Enterprises) for Strengthening Commercial Relations by Expanding and Deepening Economic, Trade and Investment Cooperation	Morocco				
240.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and Government of the Republic of Mozambique.	Mozambique	5 August 2015		5 August 2015	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
241.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.	Mozambique	7 August 2015	16 December 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
242.	Memorandum of Understanding on Setting up of Centre of Excellence in Software Development & Training.	Myanmar	6 August 2015		6 August 2015	Ministry of External Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
243.	Memorandum of Understanding between Nepal Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) & Lalit Kala Akademi, India	Nepal	23 April 2015		23rd April 2015	Ministry of Culture
244.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (India) and Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (Nepal) on a Petroleum Product Pipeline	Nepal	24 August 2015		24 August 2015	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
245.	Memorandum of Understanding signed between Tribhuvan University and South Asian University	Nepal	22 July 2015		22nd July 2015	Ministry of Human Resources and Development
246.	Joint Program of Cooperation on Strengthening the Bilateral Cooperation in the area of Electric Mobility between the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India, and Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	Netherlands	5 June 2015			Department of Heavy Industries
247.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Government of New Zealand	New Zealand	26 May 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
248.	Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of New Zealand	New Zealand	26 May 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
249.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on Exemption of Visa Requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passports	Norway	14 October 2014		7 February 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
250.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Norway	Norway	29 October 2010	1 February 2011	1 January 2015	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
251.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Kingdom of Norway, Denmark and Sweden on Air Services	Norway	20 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
252.	Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation on Criminal Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Sultanate of Oman.	Oman	29 October 2014	28 November 2014	23rd March 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs
253.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Government of Oman	Oman	20 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
254.	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Ministry of Culture, State of Palestine	Palestine	12 October 2015	12 October 2015		Ministry of Culture
255.	Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Philippines for the years 2016-2018.	Philippines	14 October 2015		14 October 2015	Ministry of Culture
256.	Extradition Treaty of between Government of the Republic of India and Government of Philippines	Philippines	12 March 2004	3 May 2004	14 October 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
257.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Poland	5 October 2015	23 October 2015	7 December 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
258.	Memorandum of Understanding between India and Portugal regarding the Nalanda University .	Portugal	9 October 2015		9 October 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
259.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Qatar on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons .	Qatar	25 March 2015	09 October 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
260.	Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar and Earth System Science Organization, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Republic of India.	Qatar	25 March 2015	10 November 2015		Meteorological Department

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
261.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Diplomatic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.	Qatar	25 March 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
262.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology of the State of Qatar on Co-operation in the field of Information Communication Technology.	Qatar	25 March 2015			Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
263.	Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the field of Radio and Television between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of India	Qatar	25 March 2015			Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
264.	Agreement for Mutual Cooperation and Exchange of News between Qatar News Agency and United News of India	Qatar	25 March 2015			Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
265.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Russia	21 October 2013	1 January 2014	21 March 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs
266.	Memorandum of Understanding between ISRO and Russian Federal Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS) on Expansion of Cooperation in the Field of the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes	Russia	22 June 2015		22 June 2015	Department of Space
267.	Memorandum of Understanding between ISRO and Russian Federal Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS) on expansion of cooperation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes	Russia	22 June 2015		22 June 2015	ISRO

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
268.	Protocol between the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of India and the Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on Cooperation in Combating Customs Violations in Air Traffic.	Russia	6 April 2015		6 April 2015	Ministry of Finance
269.	Memorandum of Understanding between Prasar Bharti and Digital Television Russia on Cooperation in the field of Broadcasting	Russia	20 August 2015		20 August 2015	Prasar Bharati
270.	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and National Research Tomsk State University to Promote Cooperation and Encourage Direct Linkages Between Their Faculty and Administrative Staff, Departments And Research Institutions.	Russia	8 May 2015		8 May 2015	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
271.	Memorandum of Understanding between University of Delhi and Lomonosov Moscow State University to establish Collaborative relations between the two Institutions to Promote friendship and encourage Cooperation in the Disciplines Studied in both Institutions.	Russia	8 May 2015		8 May 2015	Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
272.	Agreement of Cooperation between Institution of Engineers (India) and Russian Union of Scientific and Engineering Associations to Promote and Enlarge exchange of Technical, Scientific and Professional knowledge to better serve the Interests and Welfare of their members, the Engineering Profession in General, and the Public in both countries.	Russia	8 May 2015		8 May 2015	Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
273.	Memorandum of Intent of establishing the Network of Institutions of Higher Education of the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.	Russia	8 May 2015		8 May 2015	Ministry of Science and Technology

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
274.	Declaration of establishment of the Russian Indian Network of Institutions of Higher Education.	Russia	8 May 2015		8 May 2015	Ministry of Science and Technology
275.	Protocol between the Central Board of Excise and Customs (Republic of India) and the Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on Cooperation in Exchange of Pre-arrival Information for Facilitation of Trade and Customs Control on Goods and Vehicles Moved between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation	Russia	6 April 2015		6 April 2015	Ministry of Finance
276.	Agreement between the Ministry of Science & Technology of India and Russian Science Foundation for Cooperation on a Coordinated Grant Competition for Conducting Basic and Exploratory Scientific Research Carried Out by International Scientific Teams.	Russia	8 May 2015		8 May 2015	Ministry of Science and Technology
277.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the Exchange of Information relating to Taxes	Saint Kitts	11 November 2014	12 January 2015		Ministry of Finance
278.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Defence Cooperation	Saudi Arabia	26 February 2014	18 September 2014	5 March 2015	Ministry of Defence
279.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	Seychelles	26 August 2015	5 October 2015		Ministry of Finance
280.	Memorandum of Understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles.	Seychelles	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
281.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for Cooperation in the field of Hydrography.	Seychelles	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of Defence
282.	Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles on Sale of Navigational Charts/Electronic Navigational Charts.	Seychelles	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	
283.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles on the Development of Facilities on Assumption Island, Seychelles	Seychelles	11 March 2015		11 March 2015	Ministry of Earth Sciences
284.	Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles.	Seychelles	26 August 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
285.	Protocol on the Framework of Cooperation in the field of Blue Economy between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles	Seychelles	26 August 2015		26 August 2015	Ministry of Shipping
286.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the Seychelles Agricultural Agency for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education.	Seychelles	26 August 2015		26 August 2015	Ministry of Agriculture
287.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for Providing of One “Dornier-228 Maritime Aircraft”.	Seychelles	26 August 2015		26 August 2015	Ministry of Defence

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
288.	Memorandum of Understanding between The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) (Department of Electronics and Information Technology) of the Republic of India and SingCert in the area of Cyber Security .	Singapore	24 November 2015		24 November 2015	Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
289.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Narcotics Control Bureau of the Republic of India and the Central Narcotics Bureau of the Republic of Singapore on Cooperation to Combat Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their precursors .	Singapore	24 November 2015		24 November 2015	
290.	Memorandum of Understanding between National Institution for Transforming India (“Niti Aayog”) and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (“SCE”) on Cooperation in the field of Planning .	Singapore	24 November 2015			NITI Ayog
291.	Memorandum of Understanding between Airports Authority of India and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise in Civil Aviation .	Singapore	24 November 2015		24 November 2015	Ministry of Civil Aviation
292.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore on the Extension of the Loan of Artefacts to the Asian Civilizations Museum of Singapore .	Singapore	24 November 2015		24 November 2015	
293.	Joint Declaration by the Prime Ministers of the Republic of India and the Republic of Singapore on a Strategic Partnership .	Singapore	24 November 2015			
294.	Memorandum of Understanding between Town & Country Planning Organization Government of India and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise in Capacity Building in the field of Urban Planning and Governance .	Singapore	24 November 2015		24 November 2015	Ministry of Urban Development

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
295.	Executive Programme on Cooperation in the fields of the Arts, Heritage, Archives and Library between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Years 2015-2018	Singapore	24 November 2015			
296.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore Concerning Defence Cooperation.	Singapore	23 November 2015		23 November 2015	Ministry of Defence
297.	Protocol of the Eight Session of the India-Slovakia Joint Economic Committee (JEC) between the Republic of India and the Slovak Republic	Slovak Republic	25 February 2015			Ministry of Commerce
298.	Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing.	Slovak Republic	29 July 2015			Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
299.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the Gainful Occupation of Dependants of Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts	Slovenia	24 April 2015		6 August 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
300.	Agreement on the Protection of Classified Information for Defence	Spain	5 March 2015			Ministry of Defence
301.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	Sri Lanka	16 February 2015	25 May 2015		Department of Atomic Energy
302.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	Sri Lanka	13 March 2015	25 May 2015	25 December 2015	Ministry of Finance

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
303.	Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the year 2015-2018.	Sri Lanka	16 February 2015		16 February 2015	Ministry of Culture
304.	Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of India on the Establishment of Nalanda University .	Sri Lanka	16 February 2015		16 February 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
305.	Work plan under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture for the year 2015-2016.	Sri Lanka	16 February 2015		16 February 2015	Ministry of Agriculture
306.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the Ministry of the Youth Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Cooperation in the field of Youth Development .	Sri Lanka	13 March 2015		13 March 2015	Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs
307.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialistic Republic of Sri Lanka on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	Sri Lanka	13 March 2015	11 Augu 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
308.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Developmental Projects through Local Bodies Non-Governmental Organizations Charitable Trusts and Education and Vocational Institutions .	Sri Lanka	15 September 2015		15 September 2015	Ministry of External Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
309.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Provision of Medical Equipment and Furniture to 200 Bed Ward Complex at District General Hospital, Vavuniya, Sri Lanka.	Sri Lanka	15 September 2015		15 September 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
310.	Bilateral Agreement between India and Sri Lanka on Orbit Frequency Coordination of Satellite for SAARC Region	Sri Lanka	15 September 2015			Department of Space
311.	Exchange of Letters on Establishment of Emergency Ambulance Services in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	15 September 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
312.	Memorandum of Understanding of Construction of Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium in Ruhuna University in Matara	Sri Lanka	25 September 2015			
313.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Sweden	1 June 2015	5 October 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
314.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development between India and Sweden	Sweden	1 June 2015			Ministry of Urban Development
315.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation of the Kingdom of Sweden on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Sweden	1 June 2015			Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
316.	Letter of Intent between Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO), Ministry of Earth Sciences of Government of India and the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS) on Collaboration in Polar and Ocean Research	Sweden	1 June 2015			Ministry of Earth Sciences

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
317.	Memorandum of Intent between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Swedish Research Council for Health Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)	Sweden	1 June 2015			Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
318.	Memorandum of Intent between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) of the Republic of India and the Swedish Medical Products Agency (MPA)	Sweden	1 June 2015			Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
319.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India and the Government of Sweden	Sweden	20 October 2015			Ministry of Civil Aviation
320.	Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period 2015-2017	Tajikistan	13 May 2015		13 May 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
321.	Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of Culture and Art for the years 2016-2018.	Tajikistan	13 July 2015		13 July 2015	Ministry of Culture
322.	Agreement between Ministry of External Affairs and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing for Setting up of Computer Labs in 37 Schools of Tajikistan.	Tajikistan	5 October 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
323.	Exchange of <i>Note-Verbale</i> for Setting up of Computer Labs in 37 Schools of Tajikistan	Tajikistan	13 July 2015		13 July 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
324.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for Cooperation in the field of Hydrography.	Tanzania	19 June 2015		19 June 2015	Ministry of Defence

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
325.	Memorandum of Understanding between Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) in Tanzania and ICAR-INDIAN Agricultural Statistic Research Institute (ICAR-IASRI) in India on Establishing a collaborative Program in Agricultural Statistics, Computer Applications and Bioinformatics.	Tanzania	19 June 2015		19 June 2015	Ministry of Agriculture
326.	Memorandum of Understanding between Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) in Tanzania and National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) on Establishing a Collaborative Program in Official Statistics.	Tanzania	19 June 2015		19 June 2015	Ministry of Statistics & Programme implementation
327.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for Cooperation in the field of Tourism	Tanzania	19 June 2015		19 June 2015	Ministry of Tourism
328.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	Thailand	29 June 2015		11 June 2015	Ministry of Finance
329.	Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nalanda University.	Thailand	29 June 2015		29 June 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
330.	Memorandum of Understanding between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) Ministry of Ayush, the Government of the Republic of India on the Establishment of the Academic Chair in Ayurveda	Thailand	29 June 2015			Ministry of AYUSH
331.	Extradition Treaty between the Government of India and the Kingdom of Thailand	Thailand	30 May 2013	19 July 2013	29 June 2015	Ministry of External Affairs

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
332.	Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India and the Institute of International Relations (IIR) the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.	Trinidad and Tobago	5 June 2015			Ministry of External Affairs
333.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Special Passports	Tunisia	30 April 2015	22 June 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
334.	Memorandum of Mutual Understanding between Turkmenistan and India for Improvement and Modernisation of the Turkmen-India Training and Industrial Centre in Ashgabat	Turkmenistan	8 April 2015		8 April 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
335.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the field of Defence	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015	29 October 2015	18 November 2015	Ministry of Defence
336.	Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan for the Period of 2015-2017	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015		11 July 2015	Department of Science & Technology
337.	Memorandum of Understanding on Supply of Chemical Products between the Indian Public Sector Undertaking 'Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited' and the Turkmen State concern 'Turkmenhimiya'	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015		11 July 2015	Ministry of Chemical & Fertilizers
338.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in Yoga and Traditional Medicine	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015		11 July 2015	Ministry of AYUSH

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
339.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the field of Tourism	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015		11 July 2015	Ministry of Tourism
340.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015		11 July 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
341.	Agreement Between The Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports of The Republic of India And the State Committee for Sport of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the field of Sports	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015		11 July 2015	Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs
342.	Memorandum of Understanding on upgradation of Turkmen India Industrial Training Centre in Ashgabat.	Turkmenistan	8 April 2015		8 April 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
343.	Memorandum of Mutual Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India for Improvement & Modernisation of the Turmen-India Training -and Industrial Centre in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	8 April 2015		8 April 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
344.	Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Indian Standards & Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology.	UAE	3 September 2015		3 September 2015	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
345.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and the National Council of Tourism and Antiquities of United Arab Emirates on Cooperation in the field of Tourism.	UAE	3 September 2015		3 September 2015	Ministry of Tourism

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
346.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the United Arab Emirates and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India concerning Cooperation in the field of Higher Education and Scientific Research.	UAE	3 September 2015		3 September 2015	Ministry of Human Resource Development
347.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the UAE	UAE	3 September 2015		3 September 2015	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
348.	Enhancing Investment and Business Opportunities between the UAE and India	UAE	3 September 2015			
349.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India and the Department of Energy and Climate Change of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning cooperation with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership.	United Kingdom of Britain	9 November 2015		9 November 2015	Department of Atomic Energy
350.	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Co-operation in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy	United Kingdom of Britain	13 November 2015			Department of Atomic Energy
351.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on cooperation in the Energy Sector	United Kingdom of Britain	11 November 2015		11 November 2015	Ministry of Power
352.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of AYUSH and a leading UK institute for Integrated Medicine to Strengthen and Develop cooperation in the field of Research and Education in this area.	United Kingdom of Britain	11 November 2015		11 November 2015	Ministry of AYUSH

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
353.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways of the Government of the Republic of India and the Department for Transport of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Technical Cooperation in the Indian Rail Sector	United Kingdom of Britain	10 November 2015		10 November 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
354.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of AYUSH and a leading UK institute for Integrated Medicine to Strengthen And Develop Cooperation In The Field Of Research And Education In Homeopathic Medicine	United Kingdom of Britain	11 November 2015		11 November 2015	Ministry of AYUSH
355.	Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Government of the Republic of India (GoI) and Cabinet Office of the United Kingdom on Co-operation in Public Administration and Governance reforms	United Kingdom of Britain	11 November 2015		11 November 2015	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
356.	Statement of Intent on Partnership for Cooperation in the Third Countries to Assist Developing Countries in Addressing their Development Challenges by Capacity Building in a Wide Range of areas	United Kingdom of Britain	10 November 2015		10 November 2015	Development Partnership Administration -II, Ministry of External Affairs
357.	Joint announcement by India and UK on setting up of Fast-Track System for Investments by UK in India	United Kingdom of Britain	13 November 2015		13 November 2015	Ministry of Commerce
358.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement FATCA	USA	9 July 2015	31 July 2015	31st August 2015	Ministry of Finance

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
359.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Urban Development of the Government of the Republic of India and United States Agency for International Development on Cooperation in the Field of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Wash)	USA	13 January 2015		13 January 2015	Ministry of Urban Development
360.	Letter of cooperation between ISRO and United States Geological Survey (USGS) for Sharing of Earth Observation (Landsat satellite) Data	USA	8 May 2015		8 May 2015	Department of Space
361.	Amendment of the Reimbursable Agreement between ISRO and NASA for NASA Spacecraft communications and Navigation support of the Mars Orbiter Mission	USA	23 September 2015		23 September 2015	Department of Space
362.	Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Communication and & Information Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Department of State of the Government of the United States of America on Cooperation in the field of Information & Communications Technology and Electronics.	USA	23 January 2015		23 January 2015	Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
363.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America on cooperation to Establish the PACESetter Fund.	USA	30 June 2015		30 June 2015	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
364.	Letter of Intent between Earth System Sciences Organisation (ESSO) Ministry of Earth Sciences Government of India (Hereinafter Referred to As "MoES") and The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution the United States of America (Hereinafter Referred to As "WHOI") On Mutual Collaboration in Ocean Science and Technology.	USA	23 February 2015		23 February 2015	Ministry of Earth Sciences

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
365.	Memorandum of Cooperation between Department of Transportation of USA and Ministry of Road Transport &Highways, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Railways	USA	8 April 2015		8 April 2015	Ministry of Railways
366.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the United Nations World Food Programme on Cooperation for 2015-2018.	UNO	18 August 2015		18 August 2015	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
367.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the field of Tourism.	Uzbekistan	6 July 2015		6 July 2015	Ministry of Tourism
368.	Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uzbekistan, and Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India.	Uzbekistan	6 July 2015		6 July 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
369.	Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2015-2017.	Uzbekistan	6 July 2015		6 July 2015	Ministry of Culture
370.	Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Relations for the period of 2015-2020 between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Ministry of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.	Vietnam	25 May 2015			Ministry of Defence
371.	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Coast Guard of the Republic of India and Vietnam Coast Guard of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the Establishment of Collaborative Relationship to Combat Transnational Crime and Development Mutual Cooperation.	Vietnam	25 May 2015		25 May 2015	Ministry of Defence

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Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
372.	Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Institute of International Relations (IIR), the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.	West Indies	5 June 2015		5 June 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
373.	Memorandum of Cooperation between Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Implementation Support for Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban Sanitation).	USA	13 January 2015			Ministry of Urban Development

**INSTRUMENT OF FULL POWERS ISSUED DURING THE PERIOD
1 JANUARY 2015 TO 31 DECEMBER 2015**

Sr. No.	Convention/Treaty	Country	Date of Issue
1.	India Sustainable Renewable Energy Development (ISRED) Programme Loan Agreement between India and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)	OECD Fund for Development	14 May 2015
2.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Poland	6 October 2015
3.	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for providing of one "Dornier-228 Marine Aircraft	Seychelles	25 August 2015
4.	Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of India to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement FATCA	USA	3 July 2015
5.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	Thailand	25 May 2015
6.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for Providing of One "Dornier-228 Maritime Aircraft".	Seychelles	25 August 2015
7.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	Kenya	20 November 2015
8..	Agreement to Facilitate Issuance of Visas between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of the Republic of India	Iran	7 December 2015
9.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information.	Japan	9 December 2015
10.	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of Japan and the Government of Republic of India for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	Japan	9 December 2015
11.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology	Japan	9 December 2015

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INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION/ACCESSION ISSUED

DURING THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY 2015 TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
1.	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic amongst BBIN	Multilateral	10 July 2015	10 July 2015		Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
2.	Social Security Agreement between the Republic of India and Australia	Australia	18 November 2014	10 October 2015		Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
3.	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	Australia	5 September 2014	12 November 2015	13 November 2015	Department of Atomic Energy
4.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia concerning Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Australia	11 November 2015	16 December 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
5.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Austria	Austria	04 February 2013	2nd April 2013	1 July 2015	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
6.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters	Bangladesh	16 May 1974	25 May 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
7.	Protocol to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters	Bangladesh	6 September 2011	25 May 2015		Ministry of External Affairs

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Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
8.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India and the Belarusian State concern for Manufacturing and Marketing of Light Industry Goods (concern “Bellegprom”)	Belarus	3 June 2015	3 September 2015		Ministry of Textiles
9.	Protocol amending the agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Property (Capital) of the 27th of September, 1997	Belarus	3 June 2015	31 July 2015	19 November 2015	Ministry of Finance
10.	Extradition Treaty of between Government of the Republic of India and Government of Brazil	Brazil	16 April 2008	14 August 2008	20 August 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
11.	Agreement on Audio-Visual Co-Production between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Republic of India and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People’s Republic of China	China	18 September 2014	1st May 2015		Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
12.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.	Croatia	12 February 2014	12 August 2014	6 February 2015	Ministry of Finance
13.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the Republic of India on the Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Cuba	23 March 2015	1st May 2015	7 July 2015	Ministry of External Affairs

(Contd...)

APPENDIX- III

Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
14.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India on Indo-German Development Cooperation Regarding the Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership.	Germany	5 October 2015	5 October 2015		Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
15.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	Guatemala	28 May 2015	9 October 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
16.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	Hong Kong	20 January 2015	11 March 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
17.	Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Israel	27 February 2014	25 April 2014	1 March 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs
18.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Kazakhstan	8 July 2015	9 October 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
19.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of India on Defence and Military Technical Cooperation.	Kazakhstan	8 July 2015	29 October 2015		Ministry of Defence

(Contd...)

APPENDIX- III

Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
20.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	Korea	18 May 2015	22 June 2015		Ministry of Finance
21.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Audio-Visual Co-Production	Korea	18 May 2015	22 June 2015		Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
22.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Defence Cooperation	Kyrgyz Republic	12 July 2015	29 October 2015		Ministry of Defence
23.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic on Cooperation in the field of Textiles.	Kyrgyz Republic	17 March 2015	3 September 2015		Ministry of Textiles
24.	Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Mongolia	17 May 2015	14 July 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
25.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports	Morocco	17 November 2015	7 December 2015	21 January 2016	Ministry of External Affairs
26.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	Mozambique	7 August 2015	16 December 2015		Ministry of External Affairs

(Contd...)

APPENDIX- III

Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
27.	Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization	Multilateral	14 April 2005	16 April 2015		Ministry of Defence
28.	International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001	Multilateral		25 March 2015		Ministry of Shipping
29.	Treaty for the Establishment of a BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement	Multilateral	15 July 2014	25 March 2015		Ministry of Finance
30.	Agreement on the New Development Bank	Multilateral	15 July 2014	25 March 2015		Ministry of Finance
31.	Agreement on Trade in Services under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations	Multilateral	12 November 2014	6 April 2015		Ministry of Commerce
32.	Agreement on Investment under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations	Multilateral	12 November 2014	6 April 2015		Ministry of Commerce
33.	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Articles of Agreement	Multilateral	29 June 2015	16 December 2015		Ministry of Finance
34.	Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports	Multilateral	1st May 2013	10 November 2015		Ministry of Commerce
35.	SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)	Multilateral	27 November 2014	31st July 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
36.	Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003	Multilateral	9 June 2003	31st July 2015		Ministry of Shipping
37.	Maritime Labour Convention, 2006	Multilateral	23 February 2006	10 July 2015		Ministry of Shipping
38.	Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation on Criminal Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Sultanate of Oman.	Oman	29 October 2014	28 November 2014	23 March 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs

APPENDIX- III

Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
39.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Poland	5 October 2015	23 October 2015	7 December 2015	Ministry of External Affairs
40.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Qatar on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	Qatar	25 March 2015	09 October 2015		Ministry of Home Affairs
41.	Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar and Earth System Science Organization, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Republic of India.	Qatar	25 March 2015	10 November 2015		Meteorological Department
42.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Diplomatic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.	Qatar	25 March 2015	8 September 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
43.	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Russia	21 October 2013	1 January 2014	2 March 2015	Ministry of Home Affairs
44.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the Exchange of Information relating to Taxes	Saint Kitts	11 November 2014	12 January 2015		Ministry of Finance
45.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Defence Cooperation	Saudi Arabia	26 February 2014	18 September 2014	5 March 2015	Ministry of Defence

APPENDIX- III

Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
46.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes	Seychelles	26 August 2015	8 October 2015		Ministry of Finance
47.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	Sri Lanka	16 February 2015	25 May 2015		Department of Atomic Energy
48.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	Sri Lanka	13 March 2015	25 May 2015		Ministry of Finance
49.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialistic Republic of Sri Lanka on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	Sri Lanka	13 March 2015	11 August 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
50.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Sweden	1 June 2015	8 October 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
51.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	Thailand	29 June 2015	11 August 2015		Ministry of Finance

(Contd...)

APPENDIX- III

Sl No.	Name of the Agreement/ Treaty/MoU	Country	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
52.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Special Passports	Tunisia	30 April 2015	22 June 2015		Ministry of External Affairs
53.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the field of Defence	Turkmenistan	11 July 2015	29 October 2015		Ministry of Defence
54.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement FATCA	USA	9 July 2015	31 July 2015	31 August 2015	Ministry of Finance

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List of ITEC and SCAAP Countries

ITEC Countries

S.No.	Country
1	Afghanistan
2	Albania
3	Algeria
4	Angola
5	Anguilla
6	Antigua and Barbuda
7	Argentina
8	Armenia
9	Azerbaijan
10	Bahamas
11	Bahrain
12	Bangladesh
13	Barbados
14	Belarus
15	Belize
16	Benin
17	Bhutan
18	Bolivia
19	Bosnia - Herzegovina
20	Brazil
21	Brunei Darussalam
22	Bulgaria
23	Burkina Faso
24	Burundi
25	Cambodia
26	Cape Verde Island
27	Cayman Island
28	Central African Republic
29	Chad
30	Chile
31	Colombia
32	Commonwealth of Dominica
33	Comoros
34	Congo
35	Cooks Island
S.No.	Country

36	Costa Rica
37	Cote D' Ivoire
40	Czech Republic
41	Democratic Republic of Congo
42	Djibouti
43	Dominican Republic
44	Ecuador
45	Egypt
46	El-Salvador
47	Equatorial Guinea
48	Eritrea
49	Estonia
50	Ethiopia
51	Fiji
52	Gabon
53	Georgia
54	Grenada
55	Guatemala
56	Guinea
57	Guinea Bissau
58	Guyana
59	Haiti
60	Honduras
61	Hungary
62	Indonesia
63	Iran
64	Iraq
65	Jamaica
66	Jordan
67	Kazakhstan
68	Kiribati
69	Korea(DPRK)
70	Kyrgyzstan
71	Laos
72	Latvia
S.No.	Country

APPENDIX- IV

73	Lebanon
74	Liberia
75	Libya
76	Lithuania
77	Macedonia
78	Madagascar
79	Malaysia
80	Maldives
81	Mali
82	Marshall Islands
83	Mauritania
84	Mexico
85	Micronesia
86	Moldova
87	Mongolia
88	Montenegro
89	Montserrat
90	Morocco
91	Myanmar
92	Nauru
93	Nepal
94	Nicaragua
95	Niger
96	Oman
97	Palau
98	Palestine
99	Panama
100	Papua New Guinea
101	Paraguay
102	Peru
103	Philippines
104	Poland
105	Qatar
106	Republic of Sao Tome
107	Romania
S.No.	Country

108	Russia
109	Rwanda
110	Samoa
111	Senegal
112	Serbia
113	Singapore
114	Slovak Republic
115	Solomon Island
116	Somalia
117	Sri Lanka
118	St. Kitts & Nevis
119	St. Lucia
120	St. Vincent & Grenadines
121	Sudan
122	South Sudan
123	Suriname
124	Syria
125	Tajikistan
126	Thailand
127	Timor Leste
128	Togo
129	Tonga
130	Trinidad & Tobago
131	Tunisia
132	Turkey
133	Turkmenistan
134	Turks & Caicos Island
135	Tuvalu
136	Ukraine
137	Uruguay
138	Uzbekistan
139	Vanuatu
140	Venezuela
141	Vietnam
142	Yemen

APPENDIX- IV**SCAAP Countries**

S.No.	Country
143	Cameroon
144	Cameroon
145	Gambia
146	Ghana
147	Kenya
148	Lesotho
149	Malawi
150	Mauritius
151	Mozambique

S.No.	Country
152	Namibia
153	Nigeria
154	Seychelles
155	Sierra Leone
156	South Africa
157	Swaziland
158	Tanzania
159	Uganda
160	Zambia
161	Zimbabwe

List of ITEC/SCAAP Empanelled Institutes

S. No.	Name of Institute	City
Accounts, Audit, Banking and Finance Courses		
01.	Institute of Government Accounts and Finance	New Delhi
02.	International Centre for Information and System Audit	Noida
03.	National Institute of Bank Management	Pune
Environment and Renewable Energy Courses		
04.	Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee
05.	National Institute of Wind Energy	Chennai
06.	National Institute of Solar Energy	Gurgaon
07.	The Energy and Resources Institute	New Delhi
IT, Telecommunication and English Courses		
08.	Aptech Limited	New Delhi
09.	Centre For Development of Advanced Computing	Mohali
10.	Centre For Development of Advanced Computing	Noida
11.	Centre For Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management	Mumbai
12.	CMC Ltd.	New Delhi
13.	English and Foreign Languages University	Hyderabad
14.	NIIT Ltd	New Delhi
15.	UTL Technologies Ltd.	Bengaluru
Management Courses		
16.	Administrative Staff College of India	Hyderabad
17.	Indian Institute of Management	Ahmedabad
18.	International Management Institute	New Delhi
19.	National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development	Delhi
SME/Rural Development Courses		
20.	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India	Ahmedabad
21.	National Institute for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises	Hyderabad

(Contd...)

APPENDIX- V

S. No.	Name of Institute	City
22.	National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development	Noida
23.	National Institute of Rural Development	Hyderabad
Specialized Courses		
24.	Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	New Delhi
25.	Human Settlement Management Institute	New Delhi
26.	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade	New Delhi
27.	Indian Institute of Mass Communication	New Delhi
28.	International Statistical Education Centre	Kolkata
29.	National Crime Records Bureau	New Delhi
30.	National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research	Chennai
31.	National Institute of Training for Standardization	Noida
32.	National University of Educational Planning and Administration	New Delhi
33.	Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy	Ghaziabad
34.	Research and Information System for Developing Countries -	New Delhi
35.	V.V. Giri National Labour Institute	Noida
Technical Courses		
36.	Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute	Faridabad
37.	Central Institute of Rural Electrification	Hyderabad
38.	Central Institute of Tool Design	Hyderabad
39.	Central Scientific Instruments Organization	New Delhi
40.	Fluid Control Research Institute	Kerala
41.	Geological Survey of India- Training Institute	Hyderabad
42.	Indian Institute of Production Management	Kansbahal, Orissa
43.	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing	Dehradun
44.	Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee, Department of Water Resources Development and Management
45.	Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee, Department of Hydrology
46.	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research	SAS Nagar, Punjab
47.	South India Textile Research Association	Coimbatore

APPENDIX- VI**Conferences/ Seminars/ Study Projects organized/undertaken by Universities/ Institutions which were funded partially or wholly by Policy Planning & Research Division During 2015-16.**

S. No.	Project Details	Institute
1	The Centre of Central Asian Studies University of Kashmir for organising 5 day international seminar on, 'Literary Legacy of Indo-Central Asian, Indo-Afghanistan and Indo-Iran Regions, with Special reference to Sabk-e-Hindi (Indian Style)	University of Kashmir
2	The International Seminars on India Foreign policy Strategies through the 21st Century During 26-28 April 2015.	University of Kerala
3.	Conference on Strategic and Security Issues. Held on Sep. 2015.	ICRIER
4	India France Experts policy Dialogue held on April 2015	ORF
5	Research study on India's Development cooperation programme in Africa	RIS

APPENDIX- VII

Statement showing the number of Passport services rendered by Passport Offices from 01 January to 31 December 2015

RPO	Total Number of passport applications received (Normal+ Tatkal)	No. of Normal Passports issued	No. of Tatkal Passports issued	Total No. of Passports issued (Normal+ Tatkal)	No. of Misc. application received	No. of Misc. services issued	Total issued Passport and Miscellaneous service rendered
Ahmedabad	5,35,962	5,37,303	6,910	5,44,213	21,282	21,294	5,65,507
Amritsar	1,25,094	1,26,752	1,997	1,28,749	7,276	7,114	1,35,863
Bangalore	6,30,602	5,74,608	43,807	6,18,415	14,251	14,474	6,32,889
Bareilly	1,43,121	1,65,889	3,114	1,69,003	3,859	3,937	1,72,940
Bhopal	1,55,473	1,57,935	4,607	1,62,542	2,048	2,034	1,64,576
Bhubaneswar	1,00,605	1,01,758	1,550	1,03,308	4,678	4,545	1,07,853
Chandigarh	4,43,495	4,30,558	11,936	4,42,494	20,236	20,667	4,63,161
Chennai	3,96,058	3,85,479	18,722	4,04,201	16,564	16,440	4,20,641
Cochin	3,95,492	3,15,100	77,447	3,92,547	27,553	27,746	4,20,293
Coimbatore	1,29,463	1,28,441	1,190	1,29,631	2,453	2,525	1,32,156
Dehradun	80,930	78,349	3,206	81,555	2,589	2,759	84,314
Delhi	5,10,330	4,30,971	65,450	4,96,421	9,672	9,423	5,05,844
Ghaziabad	2,06,421	2,00,982	12,121	2,13,103	3,030	2,976	2,16,076
Goa	46,611	44,969	334	45,303	6,271	6,270	51,573
Guwahati	85,428	75,485	6,773	82,258	1,957	1,958	84,216
Hyderabad	6,97,299	6,89,700	25,528	7,15,228	42,661	44,275	7,59,503
Jaipur	2,97,636	2,92,275	5,542	2,97,817	13,178	13,159	3,10,976
Jalandhar	2,56,322	2,57,459	483	2,57,942	27,755	27,876	2,85,818
Jammu	37,285	38,262	72	38,334	4,485	2,017	40,351
Kolkata	5,59,536	5,73,657	22,433	5,96,090	17,178	17,032	6,13,122
Kozhikode	2,82,972	2,54,462	28,977	2,83,439	8,826	8,829	2,92,268
Lucknow	8,54,872	8,87,611	28,126	9,15,737	32,220	31,863	9,47,600
Madurai	2,47,508	2,51,928	66	2,51,994	11,269	11,633	2,63,627
Malappuram	2,13,198	1,81,538	27,334	2,08,872	3,381	3,371	2,12,243
Mumbai	4,30,002	4,14,596	32,647	4,47,243	10,748	11,021	4,58,264
Nagpur	1,12,807	1,13,238	4,391	1,17,629	1,833	1,829	1,19,458
Patna	3,13,744	3,47,642	2,081	3,49,723	16,185	15,891	3,65,614
Pune	2,82,722	2,64,674	20,481	2,85,155	5,428	5,166	2,90,321
Raipur	39,415	37,666	762	38,428	376	356	38,784

APPENDIX- VII

Statement showing the number of Passport services rendered by Passport Offices from 01 January to 31 December 2015

RPO	Total Number of passport applications received (Normal+ Tatkal)	No. of Normal Passports issued	No. of Tatkal Passports issued	Total No. of Passports issued (Normal+ Tatkal)	No. of Misc. application received	No. of Misc. services issued	Total issued Passport and Miscellaneous service rendered
Ranchi	81,540	80,440	1,154	81,594	2,799	2,768	84,362
Shimla	39,398	37,477	3,280	40,757	1,857	1,873	42,630
Srinagar	71,280	72,142	216	72,358	2,190	290	72,648
Surat	1,75,023	1,73,569	3,080	1,76,649	9,131	9,324	1,85,973
Thane	3,03,847	2,99,392	17,775	3,17,167	7,016	7,106	3,24,273
Trichy	1,95,600	1,96,739	474	1,97,213	12,073	13,844	2,11,057
Trivandrum	2,09,856	1,89,793	19,580	2,09,373	13,334	13,412	2,22,785
Visakhapatnam	2,13,603	2,13,883	3,274	2,17,157	13,166	14,684	2,31,841
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4,393	0	0	4,393	0	0	4,393
Total	99,04,943	96,22,722	5,06,920	1,01,34,035	4,00,808	4,01,781	1,05,35,816
(i)	38 RPO's (Passport+Misc. services =1,01,34,035+4,01,781						1,05,35,816
	PV-II, MEA, and Passport Offices in India for (Official & Diplomatic Passports) = 2,547+27,138						29,685
	(IC) issued by RPO, Delhi						3,852
	Surrender Certificate & LoC Issued = 4,605+4,623						9,228
(ii)	PPt+ECs+Misc. services by Indian Mission/Posts						13,85,687
	Grand Total (i + ii)						1,19,64,268

Cadre Strength of the Central Passport Organisation as on 31 December 2015

I. Group & Name of post	Total sanctioned strength
Group 'A'	
Passport Officer	17
Deputy Passport Officer	71
Assistant Passport Officer	135
Sub-total :	223
Group 'B'(Gazetted)	
Passport Granting Officer	320
Superintendent	245
Sub-total :	565
Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted)	
Assistant	428
Hindi Translator	23
Stenographer Grade I	17
Sub-total :	468
Group 'C' (Non-Gazetted)	
UDC	628
UDC(Hindi)	04
LDC	648
Driver	00
Stenographer Grade II	13
Office Assistant	148
Sub-total :	1441
II. Posts created by the Union Cabinet decision in 2007 to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project	
Technical	15
Administrative	06
Sub-total :	21
Grand Total (I + II)	2718

APPENDIX- IX

**Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad as on 31 March 2016
(including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce and those of ex-cadre etc.)**

S. No.	Cadre/Post	Posts at Hqrs.	Posts at Missions	Total
1	Grade-I	5	28	33
2	Grade-II	6	40	46
3	Grade-III	38	126	164
4	Grade-IV	54	148	202
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	98	231	329
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	25	35
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	62		62
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15		15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19		19
	(v) Training Reserve	7		7
	Sub Total I	314	598	912
	IFS (B)			
7	(i) Grade I	118	125	243
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	341	223	564
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	188	526	714
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	55		55
10	(i) Grade V/VI	157	88	245
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14		14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	47	47	94
	(ii) Leave Reserve	5		5
12	(i) Stenographer's Cadre	377	509	886
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47		47
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10		10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12		12
13	Interpreter's Cadre	20	3	23
14	L&T Cadre	20	3	23
	Sub Total II	1595	1547	3142
	Grand Total (Sub Total I+II)	1909	2145	4054

APPENDIX- X

Data on recruitment through direct recruitment, departmental promotion and limited departmental examination made in the Ministry along with reserved vacancies for the period 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

S.No.	Groups	Total number of vacancies	SC	ST	OBC
1.	Group A*	165	19	12	12
2.	Group B	260	89	50	60
3.	Group C	182	1	19	70
	Total	607	109	81	142

APPENDIX- XI**No. of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various languages (2015-16)**

S. No	LANGUAGE	NO OF OFFICERS
1.	ARABIC	95
2.	BHASA INDONESIA	10
3.	BHASA MALAY	1
4.	BHASA THAI	1
5.	BURMESE	6
6.	CHINESE	75
7.	FRENCH	83
8.	GERMAN	31
9.	HEBREW	6
10.	JAPANESE	25
11.	KAZAKH	1
12.	KISWAHILI	2
13.	KOREN	5
14.	PERSIAN	20
15.	PORTUGESE	22
16.	PUSHTU	2
17.	RUSSIAN	90
18.	SERBI-CROATIAN	1
19.	SINHALESE	3
20.	SPANISH	78
21.	TURKISH	7
22.	UKRANIAN	1
23.	VIETNAMESE	4
24.	TOTAL	569

Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Conferences and Seminars
April – November 2015

S. No.	Title of Conference/Seminar	Details of Conference/Seminar
1	Shared Heritage as New Variable in the Indo-Korean Relations: Historicizing the Legend of Princess of Ayodhya and its Legacy	An international seminar was organized in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, from 14-15 July 2015, which was attended by seven delegates from Korea (Republic of Korea) and nine from India. Reference to this Seminar was made by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, during his visit to South Korea in May, 2015 (Point 20, Joint Statement issued during the visit). The objective of the Seminar was to analyze the historicity of the legend of Ayodhya Princess and using that narrative to strengthen bilateral relations. As per the legend, Princess Suriratna from Ayodhya travelled from India to Korea in 48 AD and married Prince Kim Suro and thus the beginning of Garak Clan was made. Besides the legend, the scholars also presented and analyzed the various aspects of the age old relations between India and Korea and their implications, in detail. Prof. Lokesh Chandra, President, ICCR inaugurated the Seminar in the morning of 14 July 2015
2	The Many Forms of Soft Power: India and the World	Organized in collaboration with Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla an International conference during 14-16 September 2015. The conference was attended by scholars from varied fields like culture, administration, film studies, media, history, sports and sociology.
3	Bhagavad Gita and its Contemporary Relevance	A two day conference was organized at Nehru Centre, London, from 24 - 25 September 2015 which was attended by eleven participants from different European countries and seven Indian scholars. High Commissioner of India in Great Britain, Director General, ICCR and other dignitaries attended the inaugural function held on 24 September 2015. The Conference was organized in collaboration with High Commission of India in London, SOAS University of London, SREI Foundation and Sanskrit @St. James
4	Rishi-Sufi traditions of Kashmir	3-days International conference was organized by ICCR in collaboration with Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages from 25-27 October 2015 at Gandhi Bhawan, University of Kashmir. The conference was inaugurated by the Shri N.N. Vohra, Hon'ble Governor, Jammu & Kashmir. The other dignitaries present at the event were, Shri C. Rajasekhar, Director General, ICCR, Prof. Khurshid Andrabi, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof G. N. Khaki, Director, Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir and Ms Kamna Prasad, Academic Coordinator of the conference. The conference had five foreign scholars from Afghanistan, Austria, Bangladesh, Iran and Austria and five scholars from J&K region. It also had 5 scholars from across India.

APPENDIX- XII

5	Sanskrit and Indological Studies in India, Russia and Neighboring Countries: Past, Present and Future	A three days international conference was organized in collaboration with Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH) in Moscow from 28-29 October 2015. H.E. P.S. Raghavan, Ambassador of India to Russia inaugurated the conference on 27 October 2015 which was also attended by Prof. E.I. Pivovarov, Rector RSUH. The conference had participation of 6 scholars from India, 4 scholars from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and 11 scholars from various cities of Russia.
6	International Conference of Indologists – 2015	A three-day International Conference was organized at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi from 21-23 November 2015 in which twenty one participants from abroad and seven Indian participants attended. The conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The inaugural function held in prestigious Durbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was also attended by Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, President, ICCR, Prof. Lokesh Chandra, Former President, ICCR, Dr. Karan Singh, officials from Embassies and High Commissions of different countries, besides scholars and academicians of repute. In the inauguration ceremony, first Distinguished Indologist Award was presented to eminent German Indologist, Prof. Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Besides inaugural and Valedictory Sessions, the Conference witnessed eight academic sessions, two special lectures delivered by Dr. Karan Singh and Prof. Naman Ahuja and an interactive session. On 24th November, international participants visited Rishikesh and Haridwar to have a glimpse of Indian religion and culture.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations
EXHIBITIONS (Outgoing and Incoming)
April – November 2015

Outgoing Exhibitions

S.No.	Country	Name of the Exhibitions & Artists	Period of display
1.	Spain	Religions of India by Shri Amit Mishra	April – July, 2015
2.	Tunisia	Monuments of India by Shri Kashinath Das	April – November, 2015
3.	Tunisia	Islamic Monuments of India by Shri Benoy K. Behl	April – November, 2015
4.	Slovenia	Digital Prints of Artwork of Tagore	May – October, 2015
5.	Tanzania	'Kalpana – Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings' by Anjolie Ela Menon	May – June, 2015
6.	Palestine	Islamic Monuments of India by Shri Benoy K. Behl	May – August, 2015
7.	Reunion Islands	Women by Women by Ms. Radhika Shrinagesh	August – November, 2015
8.	Hungary	Phulkaris	August – September, 2015
9.	Netherlands	Sari : The Magic of Indian Weaves by Smt. Rta Kapur Chishti	September – October, 2015
10.	Oman	Vastram – Splendid World of Indian Textile by Ms. Shelly Jyothi	October, 2015
11.	Spain	Stream of Consciousness by Shri Chandra Shekhar Jain	October – December, 2015

Support Extended

S.No.	Support Extended to	Remarks
1.	Consulate General of India, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	For commissioning the exhibition highlighting India's support to Vietnam during the War and President Ho Chi Minh and India connection
2.	Ms. Kusum Jain, Secretary General of Indo - Vietnam Solidarity Committee, Kolkata for the sector Kolkata - Ho Chi Minh City - Kolkata	To curate the exhibition highlighting India's support to Vietnam during the War and President Ho Chi Minh and India connection
3.	Ms. Bharti Dayal for the sector Delhi – Brussels – Delhi	To display her exhibition at Museum of Sacred Arts (MOSA), Belgium

Incoming Exhibitions

S.No.	Displayed at	Name of the Exhibitions	Period of display
1.	Delhi	'Roerich Pact. History and Modernity in collaboration with International Centre of the Roerichs, Moscow	15 – 27 May 2015

Exhibitions under “Horizon” Series

S.No.	Displayed at	Exhibition & Artist	Period of display
1.	Azad Bhavan Art Gallery, Delhi	Painting Exhibition by Ms. Tabassum Malik, Delhi based artist	10 – 15 April 2015
2.	Azad Bhavan, Art Gallery, Delhi	Painting Exhibition by Ms. Mukta Gupta, Jamshedpur based artist	17 – 22 April 2015
3.	Azad Bhavan, Art Gallery, Delhi	Exhibition of Sculptures by Ameresh Kumar, Patna based artist	24 – 29 April 2015
4.	Azad Bhavan, Art Gallery, Delhi	Photo Exhibition ‘Zanskar – The Rainbow Mountain’ by Ms. Usha Vohra, J&K based artist	12 – 17 June 2015

Exhibition at Regional Offices

1.	Bangalore	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	15 – 15 May 2015
2.	Chennai	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	1 – 7 June 2015
3.	Thiruvananthapuram	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	10 – 15 June 2015
4.	Goa	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	20 – 30 June 2015
5.	Hyderabad	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	6 – 13 July 2015
6.	Kolkata	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	20 – 31 July 2015
7.	Guwahati	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	1 – 9 September 2015
8.	Shillong	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	14 – 18 September 2015
9.	Pune	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	31 October – 8 November 2015
10.	Mumbai	Maitri - Exhibition produced by the artists during India - China Women Artists Residency at Jaipur	16 – 22 November 2015

Residency / Camp

S.No.	Name of the Residency	Period
1.	India - China Women Artists Residency ‘Maitri’ at Shanghai, China	24-30 October 2015

RIS Publications

Books and Reports

- Towards South Asia Economic Union. AIC – RIS, New Delhi, 2015.
- ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions. AIC – RIS, New Delhi, 2015.
- India-Africa Partnership Towards Sustainable Development. RIS, New Delhi, 2015.
- The Logic of Sharing: Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation, New Delhi, 2015.
- ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2015. AIC – RIS, New Delhi, 2015
- Prospects of Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean. S.K. Mohanty, Priyadarshi Dash, Aastha Gupta, Pankhuri Gaur, RIS, New Delhi, 2015.
- India Africa Partnership in Health Care: Accomplishments and Prospects. T C James, Prativa Shaw, Payel Chatterjee, Deepti Bhatia, RIS, New Delhi, 2015
- India-Korea CEPA - An Appraisal of Progress. V. S. Seshadri, AIC-RIS New Delhi, 2015
- ASEAN-India Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges Proceedings of the Third Roundtable on ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) AIC-RIS, New Delhi, 2015
- South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015. RIS, 2015.
- India and APEC: An Appraisal by V.S. Seshadri AIC at RIS, 2015.
- World Trade & Development Report, RIS, New Delhi , 2015

Journals

- *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 2, September 2015
- *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*: Special Issue on Sustainable Development Goals , Vol. 17, No. 2, July 2015
- *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Supplementary Issue)

Policy Briefs

- No. 74: Undersea Pipedreams and Indian Energy Security, September 2015
- No. 73: Make in India: State of Manufacturing in India, September 2015
- No. 72: The Contingent Reserve Arrangement: A Redesign of the International Monetary System, May 2015
- No. 71: Classification of Countries and G-20, May 2015
- No. 70: Access, Equity and Inclusion: Ethical Norms and S&T Policy Outcomes, May 2015
- No. 69: Access, Technology Development and National IPR Policy, May 2015
- No. 68: New Development Bank: A Contribution to Development Finance, May 2015

Discussion Papers

- No. 200 Foreign Direct Investment and Poverty Reduction: India in Regional Context by Manmohan Agarwal and Pragya Atri
- No. 199 Towards 'Make in South Asia': Evolving Regional Values Chain by Ram Uendra Das
- No. 198 India's Development Cooperation with Ethiopia in Sugar Production: An Assessment by Sushil Kumar
- No. 197 Promoting Innovations in Indian Universities: A Theoretical Model of University- Industry Interface by Sab-yasachi Saha
- No.196 Reconfiguring International Financial Institutions: The BRICS Initiative by Manmohan Agarwal

RIS Diary

- Vol. 11 No. 2 April 2015
- Vol. 11 No. 3, July 2015
- Vol. 11 No. 4, October 2015
- Vol. 12 No. 11, January 2016

AIC Newsletter

- Vol.1, No.1, July 2015

FIDC Policy Brief

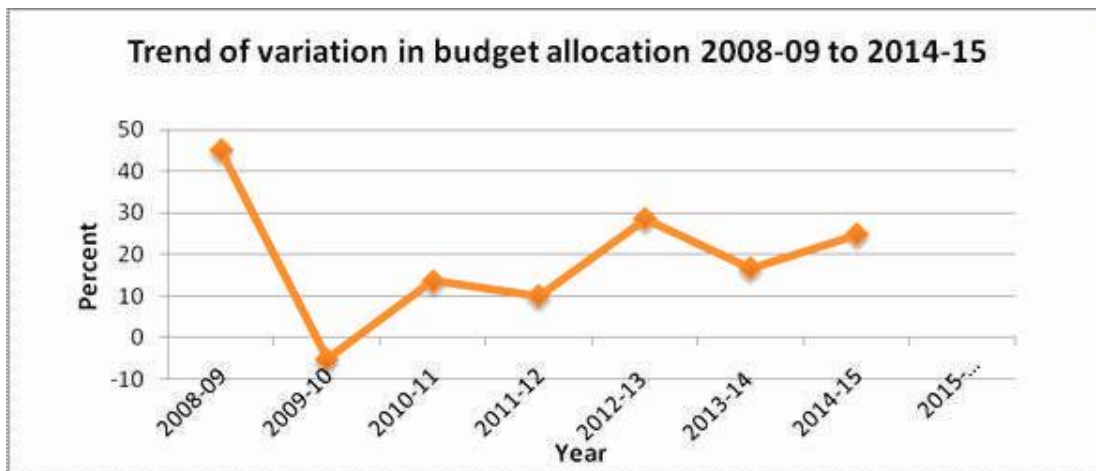
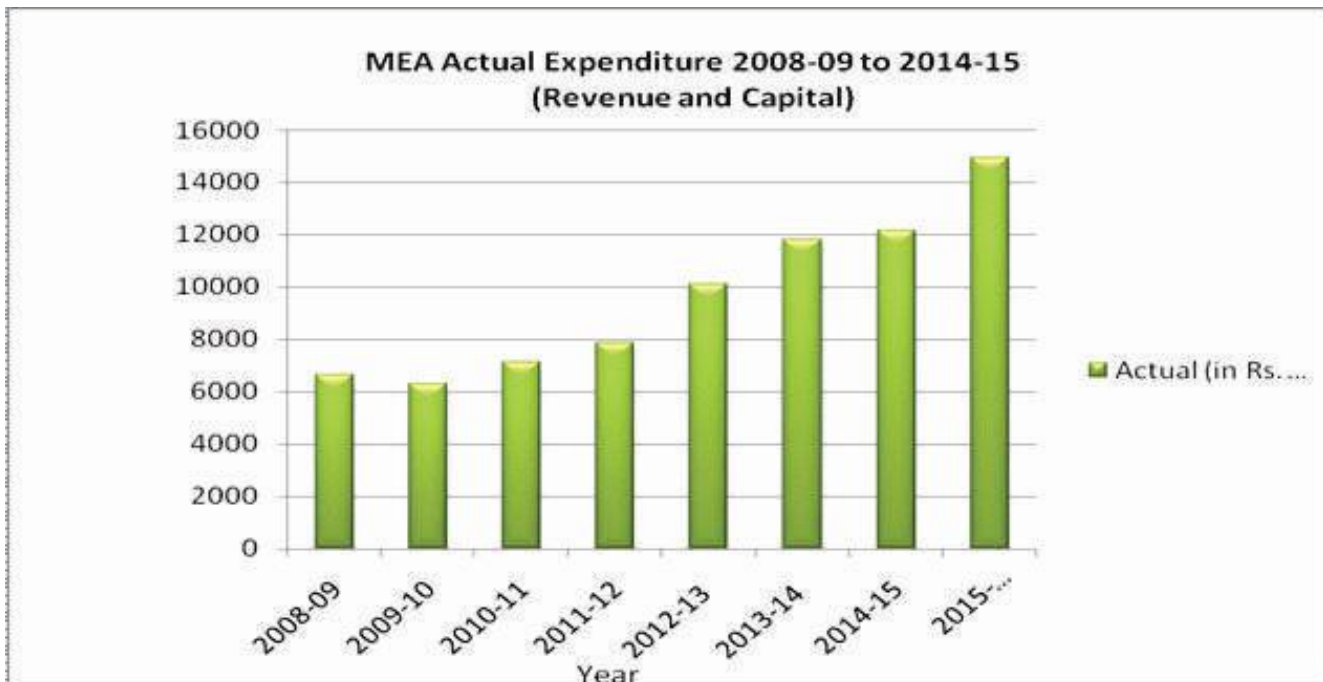
- No. 5 South-South Cooperation and India: Insights from FIDC Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogues, August 2015

APPENDIX - XV

The Budget allocation (BE) 2015-16 is Rs. 14966.83 crore, which is 1.7 % more than BE 2014-15.

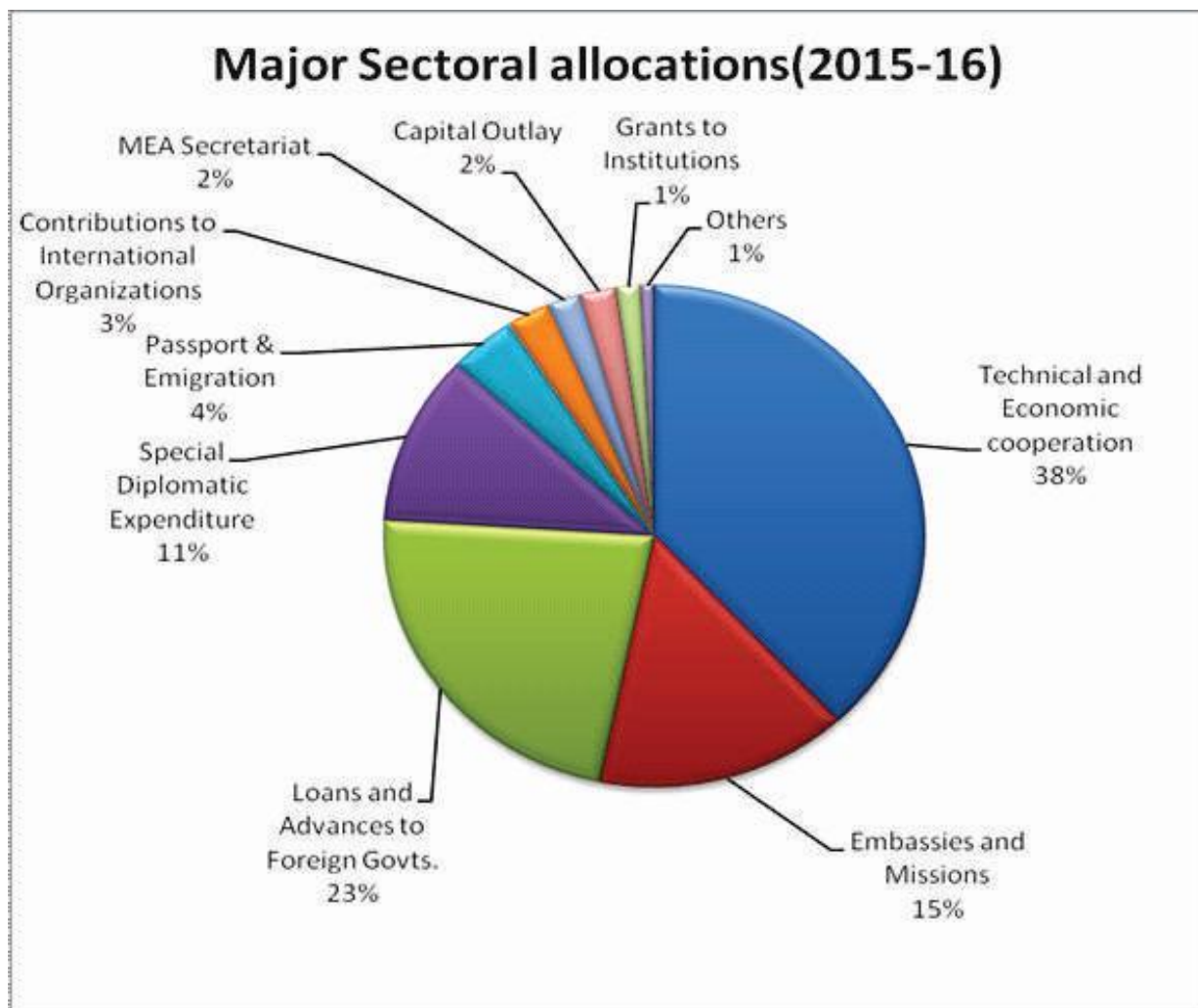
MEA Actual Expenditure 2008-09 to 2014-15 (Revenue and Capital)

Years	Actual (in Rs. crore)	%age variation from previous year
2008-09	6630.73	45.02
2009-10	6290.77	-5.13
2010-11	7153.27	13.71
2011-12	7872.76	10.06
2012-13	10120.88	28.55
2013-14	11807.36	16.66
2014-15	12148.82	24.75



APPENDIX - XVI

Major Sectoral Allocations in 2015-16 (Budget Estimates)	
Sectors	Allocation (Rs in crore)
Technical and Economic cooperation	5708.22
Embassies and Missions	2265.01
Loans and Advances to Foreign Govts.	3398.80
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	1650.01
Passport & Emigration	597.72
Contributions to International Organizations	386.03
MEA Secretariat	297.98
Capital Outlay	330.00
Grants to Institutions	214.43
Others	118.63
Total	14966.83



APPENDIX - XVII

Principal Destinations of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes

The Principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2015-16 were as under (figures pertain to Budget Estimates 2015-16):

S. No.	Technical Cooperation Budget	(In Rupees crore)	% of India's Total Aid & Loan Budget
1.	Bhutan	2919.40	32.06
2.	Bangladesh	250.00	2.75
3.	Afghanistan	676.00	7.42
4.	Sri Lanka	500.00	5.49
5.	Nepal	420.00	4.61
6.	Myanmar	270.00	2.96
7.	African Countries	200.00	2.20
8.	Eurasian Countries	20.00	0.22
9.	Maldives	25.00	0.27
10.	Latin American Countries	15.00	0.16
11.	Mongolia	2.50	0.03
12.	Others	410.32	4.51
	Total	5708.22	

As on 03.12.2015

Status of pending C & AG Audit Paras

S.No	Year	No. of Paras/PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by Audit	Details of the Paras/PA report on which ATNs are pending		
			No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time	No. of ATNs sent but returned with observations and Audit is awaiting their resubmission by the Ministry	No. of ATNs which have been finally vetted by audit but have not been submitted by the Ministry to PAC
1	2010-11	-	-	-	-
2	2011-12	-	-	-	-
3	2012-13	-	-	-	-
4	2013	-	-	-	3
5	2014	-	-	3	3
6.	2015	-	2	-	1
TOTAL			2	3	7

The Summary of important audit observations appearing in the most recent audit reports (for the year 2014 & 2015) as on 03/12/2015 is given below:-

1	Performance Audit of Global Estate Management	<p>Lack of domain information and non-preparation of action plan</p> <p>It was seen that even essential domain information i.e. owned, rental and leased number of Chancery buildings/Embassy residences/Staff residences etc. were not readily available with MEA. The absence of the information indicates a lack of a systematic approach towards reduction of rental liability as assured to the PAC. The MEA was also yet to develop an action plan for estate management despite an assurance given to the PAC.</p> <p>Delay in acquisition of property</p> <p>The Ministry had rendered assurance to the PAC that significant steps had been taken to streamline and speed-up the internal processes related to acquisition and construction of property. However, audit noted in seven cases (Geneva, Berne, Hamburg, Munich, Bishkek, Stockholm and Milan) deficiencies and delays in decision making persisted. Failure in purchase of land/acquisition of property resulted in rental outgo amounting to rs. 7.83 crore during 2011-12.</p>
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APPENDIX- XVIII

		<p>Delays in construction activities</p> <p>Audit noted delays in commencement of construction of properties in ten cases (Shanghai, Port of Spain, Port Louis, Dar-Es-Salaam, Kathmandu, Tashkent, Kyiv, Brasilia, Doha and Nicosia). The delays were attributable to delays in submission of drawings, failure to firm-up the type of properties required, non finalisation of project designs, delays in obtaining approval from local authorities, frequent changes in project requirements and other procedural delays. Most of these delays were internal to the Ministry. The PAC during the examination of the previous audit report of property management had also urged the MEA to put in place specific time frames and monitoring mechanism to avoid delay in pre construction activities. The annual rental outgo in these cases, in 2011-12 was Rs. 16.36 crore.</p> <p>Deficiencies in renovation/redevelopment activities</p> <p>Renovation/Redevelopment work of owned buildings has been taken up by the Ministry at various stations. Audit of records maintained at Ministry/respective Missions revealed that at four stations viz., Sydney, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta there were irregularities and considerable delays in renovation/redevelopment work. This resulted in avoidable rental expenditure of Rs. 7.44 crore during 2011-12.</p> <p>Delays in Construction activities in India</p> <p>Lack of a systemic approach was also noted in domestic construction projects. Audit of records of five projects (RPO Jaipur, RPO Amritsar, RPO Mumbai, RPO Srinagar and FSI, Delhi) revealed that there were considerable delays in start of projects upto 22 years (RPO Jaipur). Construction at RPO Srinagar had not commenced though the land was purchased in December 2006. Avoidable rental outgo in respect of three RPO's (RPO Amritsar, RPO Mumbai and RPO Srinagar) during 2011-12 alone was Rs.3.98 crore.</p>
2	Violation of rules in procurement of goods	<p>Consulate General of India, Atlanta procured computer hardware/software, office equipment and furniture/fittings worth 1.61 crore in three separate purchases in violation of Rules and without following fair, transparent and reasonable procedure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Paragraph 5.2)</p>
3	Fictitious payment vouchers/receipt challans in Monthly Accounts	<p>The Consulate General of India, Houston, USA prepared fictitious payment vouchers of US\$ 3,72,632 and receipt challans of US\$ 3,62,172 and accounted these in its monthly accounts submitted to the Ministry. There were withdrawals of US\$ 69,356 and deposits of US\$ 39,266 without routing through the cash book. The accounts of the Consulate suffered from serious inaccuracies which was fraught with the risk of short accounting of receipts and unaccounted withdrawals.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Paragraph 5.3)</p>

(Contd...)

APPENDIX- XVIII

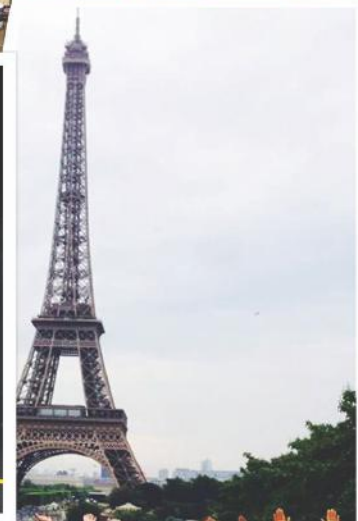
4	Overpayment of foreign allowance to project management teams	The Missions in Moscow and Paris paid discretionary foreign allowance instead of foreign compensatory allowance to six officers of Indians Air Force posted in project management teams in Moscow and Paris. This resulted in overpayment of Rs.74.69 lakh to the officers during November 2009 to August 2013. (Paragraph 5.4)
5	Short collection of fees for passport Miscellaneous Services	Non-revision of Passport Miscellaneous Services fees resulted in loss of revenue of Rs. 1.52 crore. (Paragraph 5.5)
6	Undue financial benefit to the service provider	Irregular increase of service charges for surrender of passport services and levy of inadmissible administrative fee on such services resulted in undue financial benefit of Rs. 67.36 lakh to the service provider during September 2010 to March 2013. (Paragraph 5.6)
7	Failure to purchase Chancery buliding in Rome	The Mission and the Ministry failed to purchase building for Chancery in Rome despite requisite permission by the Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure in July 2011 and availability of funds resulting in a committed liability of Rs. 41.71 crore due to continued hiring of the property without an exit clause. (Paragraph 5.1)
8	Short collection of business visa fee	Short collection of Business Visa fees amounting to Rs. 10.20 crore in Missions and Posts abroad due to non-implementation of Ministry's instructions on issue of business visa. (Paragraph 5.2)
9	Unauthorised expenditure of Rs. 429.81 lakh on engagement of contingency staff without sanction	The Consulate General of India, Houston and Chicago engaged contingency staff in violation of rules and instructions of the Ministry. (Paragraph 5.3)

Abbreviations

AALCO	Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation	FIDC	Forum for Indian Development Cooperation
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	FMCT	Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	FTA	Free Trade Agreement
ASEM	Asia Europe Meeting	G-20	Group of Twenty
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry	GCTF	Global Counter Terrorism Forum
AU	African Union	GFMD	Global Forum for Migration and Development
AWG-LC	Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action	GOI	Government of India
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy	HEP	Hydro-Electric Project
BARC	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	HRC	Human Rights Council
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	IAFS	India-Africa Forum Summit
BIPPA	Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement	IANS	Indo-Asian News Service
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China	IBSA	India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum
CBM	Confidence Building Measure	I/C	Independent Charge
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear	ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
CECA	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry	IDFR	Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations
CLMV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Burma, and Vietnam	IDSA	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
CPIO	Central Public Information Officer	IEA	International Energy Agency
CPV	Consular Passport and Visa	IFS	Indian Foreign Service
DTAA	Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement	IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
EAM	External Affairs Minister	IIFT	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
EASA	External Affairs Spouses' Association	IIMC	Indian Institute of Mass Communication
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council	ILO	International Labour Organisation
EEPC	Engineering Exports Promotion Council	IOM	International Organization on Migration
EU	European Union	IONS	Institute of Noetic Sciences
EXIM	Export Import Bank of India	IOR-ARC	Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry	IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
		IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
		ISRO	Indian Space Research Organization

(Contd...)

ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
ITMA	International Textile Manufacturers Association	SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area
IVFRT	Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking	SAU	South Asian University
JCBC	Joint Commission on Business Cooperation	SBI	State Bank of India
JWG	Joint Working Group	SCAAP	Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme
LCS	Land Customs Stations	SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
LDC	Least Developed Country	SDP	Small Development Projects
LoC	Line of Credit	SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India
MEP	Member of the European Parliament	SED	Strategic Economic Dialogue
MERCOSUR	Market of Southern Cone Countries	SICA	Central American Integration System
MGC	Mekong-Ganga Cooperation	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forests	SR	Special Representative
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	TERI	Tata Energy and Research Institute
MP	Member of Parliament	UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
MTCR	Missile Technology Control Regime	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement	UNCOPUOS UN	Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
NASA	National Aeronautical and Space Administration	UNCSTD	United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development
NDC	National Defence College	UNCTAD	United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development
NGO	Non-Government Organisation	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NIFT	National Institute of Fashion Technology	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
NPT	Non-Proliferation Treaty	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
NSCS	National Security Council Secretariat	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
OCI	Overseas Citizenship of India	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
OTs	Officer Trainees	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
PHARMEXCIL	Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India	UNODC	United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime
PIO	Persons of Indian Origin	UPA	United Progressive Alliance
PM	Prime Minister	WHO	World Health Organization
PTA	Preferential Trade Agreement	WIPO	World Intellectual Rights Organisation
PTI	Press Trust of India	WTO	World Trade Organisation
PSP	Passport Sewa Project	XPD	External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division
PSU	Public Sector Undertaking		
RBI	Reserve of Bank of India		
RGoB	Royal Government of Bhutan		
RTI	Right to Information		





**Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India**

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