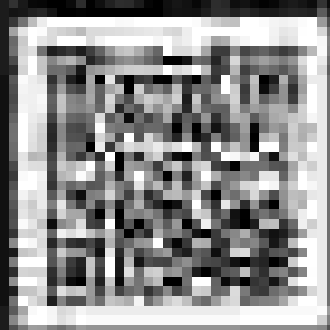




# Ministry of External Affairs

## Annual Report

### 2017-2018





सत्यमेव जयते

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

**Ministry of External Affairs  
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# Introduction and Synopsis

The year 2017-18 saw the continuation of a pragmatic and outcome-oriented foreign policy, aimed at achieving the key goals of ensuring national security and upholding territorial integrity, attaining national economic transformation, and addressing regional and global issues. This approach was reflected in the revitalisation of our traditional ties, in our re-energised strategic and commercial relations, and the continued engagement of our Diaspora.

The year witnessed intensive diplomatic engagements. India participated in regional and global discourses, with a constructive approach to all issues. During the year, India became a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Australia Group. The coming into force of the International Solar Alliance, a treaty-based international organisation, marks India's role in addressing the vital issue of climate change. India also participated in various global conferences such as the SCO Summit, the G-20 Summit, the BRICS Summit, the East Asia Summit, and the World Economic Forum at Davos. We hosted the Global Conference on Cyberspace and the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in November 2017, the 3rd edition of the Raisina Dialogue and the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in January 2018.

India's immediate neighbourhood continued to receive the highest priority in accordance with the Government's "Neighbourhood First" policy. Outgoing visits by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Sri Lanka and Myanmar and by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj to Nepal and Bangladesh; incoming visits by Prime Ministers of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh; and, Chief Executive of Afghanistan continued the momentum in our high-level engagement with the neighbourhood. With Afghanistan, the inauguration of a dedicated Air Cargo Corridor in June 2017 between Kabul-Delhi and Kandahar-Delhi provided a fresh impetus to bilateral trade by overcoming regional connectivity constraints. Over 1000 tonnes of cargo has already been transported through the Air Corridor.

Relations with Bangladesh were marked by progress in the areas of civil nuclear energy, space and defence cooperation etc. A third Line of Credit worth US\$ 4.5 billion was announced, that will cover next-generation projects in port construction, railways, power & energy, telecommunications and shipping. Intensive high-level exchanges with Sri Lanka provided a further push towards development projects and greater synergy on issues related to peace and security in the Indian Ocean. India stood by Sri Lanka with prompt assistance during the May 2017 floods. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's first bilateral visit to Myanmar gave much needed impetus to the relations and deepened bilateral cooperation. The Line of Credit Agreement for post-2016 earthquake reconstruction projects in Nepal worth US\$ 750 million was operationalised. Continued high-level exchanges, including the visit of His Majesty the King of Bhutan in November 2017, have imparted fresh momentum to the multi-faceted bilateral relationship with Bhutan. There has been steady progress in our hydropower cooperation, and the India-Bhutan Trade and Transit Agreement, renewed in November 2016, entered into force in July 2017. These additional trade facilitation measures led to a further enhancement in bilateral trade and investment. Our long-standing relationship with Maldives was strengthened through cooperation in the areas of defence and security, institution and capacity building, and assistance in health and education sectors.

Cultural, digital and physical connectivity have emerged as significant themes in Indian diplomacy. With the historic launch of the South Asia Satellite, India demonstrated its commitment to sharing the benefits of our technological capabilities with our regional partners. Lack of connectivity, both within India and in the larger South Asian neighbourhood and beyond, is a constraint on both our capabilities and our competitiveness. Steady progress is being made in our efforts to develop multimodal linkages with Myanmar and Bangladesh. The operationalisation of the Chabahar Port in Iran is expected to deepen connectivity linkages with our partners in Central

Asia and on the International North South Transport Corridor. Initiatives to develop connectivity were also taken through groupings such as BIMSTEC and BBIN, aimed at enhancing logistics efficiencies in South Asia and Southeast Asia and to boost economic development. India is also working with international partners on various multimodal connectivity projects under the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor. These projects are expected to revitalise the centuries old linkages of trade, commerce and connectivity between the two largest continents of the world. India also ratified the United Nations TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) Convention in June 2017.

The Government continued to focus on engagement and deepening of India's ties with all major powers of the world, creating new pathways and mutually beneficial opportunities. In our bilateral engagements with countries such as the USA, Russia, Germany, Japan, Australia and France, the Government focused on the areas of greatest potential in each relationship. India has leveraged the convergence of interests in these partnerships to increase the flow of trade, investment and technologies into the Indian economy. Engagements with global leaders were also held on the sidelines of multilateral engagements such as the UNGA, the G-20 Summit, BRICS Summit, East Asia Summit and the SCO meeting.

India's diplomatic approach and engagement with the wider world is reflective of its confidence as a rising power capable of shaping the global discourse in the emerging multipolar world. The Government has been successful in achieving equilibrium between advancing economic growth that remains pivotal to its diplomatic outreach, and progress in areas such as security and defence cooperation, technology and nuclear energy. The emergence and shared understanding of the significance of Indo-Pacific and reaffirmation of the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight and commerce throughout the region, were some of the highlights of the Prime Minister's highly successful visit to the USA in June 2017. The interaction with the new leadership also reiterated bipartisan support for further strengthening of India-USA relations and a commitment to cooperate in the fight against the global scourge of international terrorism. Celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations, the Prime Minister visited Russia in June 2017 and further strengthened the decades old relationship by signing an agreement for Units V & VI of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. The annual summit also identified new

areas of cooperation between the two countries such as deep sea exploration to building knowledge based economies based on science and technology, innovation, robotics and artificial intelligence, focussing on infrastructure, skill development, agriculture, shipbuilding, railways, aviation and greater connectivity. The 12th India-Japan annual summit in September 2017 witnessed the laying of foundation stone for India's first high-speed rail project in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It also restated the commitment of both countries towards achieving a "free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region where sovereignty and international law are respected." Similarly, India and the EU are also celebrating 55 years of establishing diplomatic relations and witnessed participation of the President of the European Council and the European Commission for the 14th India-EU summit in October 2017. The summit reflected growing convergence between the two on regional and international issues and focused, inter alia, on closer cooperation on counter-terrorism actions and adopted a Joint Statement on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism.

India's diplomatic outreach was also marked by simultaneous engagement with countries to the regions East, West and South of India. In pursuance of our "Act East" policy, the Prime Minister attended the 15th ASEAN-India Summit and 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Manila in November 2017. Signifying the importance of the region for India, the Prime Minister has already visited eight out of ten ASEAN countries. There is a strong emphasis on connectivity and stronger integration, and building partnerships to address traditional and non-traditional security threats in the region. Year-long celebrations marked the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership, The Government also hosted the landmark ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in January 2018, with all the ten ASEAN Heads of States participating as Guests of Honour at the Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2018.

Prime Minister paid the first ever visit to Israel in July 2017, upgrading the relationship to a strategic level. The two countries signed key agreements to step up cooperation in space, agriculture and water conservation. An MoU was also signed for setting up of India-Israel Industrial Research and Development and Technical Innovation Fund worth US\$ 40 million.

In West Asia and the Gulf, the past year saw a visit by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations in 2017. During the visit, the two

countries decided to elevate the ties to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, marking the Gulf's second largest economy as India's pre-eminent partner in both strategic and economic arenas. The two leaders also discussed operationalisation of the US\$ 75 billion Infrastructure Investment Fund.

The period under review also saw the inauguration of the first phase of the Chabahar port project in Iran. The maiden consignment of 15,000 tonnes of wheat was shipped to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port in November 2017. Along with the establishment of the India-Afghanistan air-freight corridor, innovative initiatives with regional partners in Central Asia on the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), will pave the way for operationalisation of the Chabahar port as an alternate, reliable and robust connectivity hub, and promote trade and transit with the countries in the wider region. Apart from important understandings in the fields of energy cooperation, significant investment commitments for infrastructure development and stronger cooperation on counter-terrorism, security and defence issues have been advanced with all the countries in the region.

India's outreach to Central Asia saw further progress with the Prime Minister visiting Kazakhstan for the 17th SCO Summit in Astana in June 2017, where India was admitted as a full member of the SCO. Counter-terrorism has emerged as a crucial area of cooperation with the countries in the Central Asia region, with joint working groups on counterterrorism with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Central Asia is also one of the largest beneficiaries of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program. Furthermore, strong relations have been established in textiles, metallurgy, hydrocarbons, mineral processing, IT, food processing etc. India will also host the next Steering Committee meeting of the Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India (TAPI) pipeline. India and the five-member Eurasian Economic Union also began formal negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) in July 2017.

The Indian Ocean region remains a priority and an important cornerstone of India's diplomatic engagements. Prime Minister's strategic vision articulated during his visit to Mauritius in 2015 has spurred a qualitative transformation in India's engagement with Indian Ocean region in recent years. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) held its 1st IORA Summit in Indonesia in March 2017, where three documents were adopted viz. the IORA Concord laying out the vision of

IORA, Declaration on Preventing Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism, and the Action Plan of IORA for the next 5 years. India also offered setting up of an Information Fusion Centre to coordinate Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and extending to all member states cooperation in the fields of hydrography. Maritime security is an important dimension of India's bilateral relations with all Indian Ocean littoral states. There was progress in building stronger networks among Indian Ocean littoral States. This included collaboration on coastal surveillance, sharing of white shipping information and cooperation in fighting non-traditional threats like marine piracy, smuggling and organized crime.

India established itself as the first responder in rendering humanitarian and disaster relief. Through its humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts, India has shown a willingness and determination to shoulder greater global responsibilities by extending its capacity as a "first responder" to crises beyond its borders. It provided critical relief supplies and medical assistance to the flood ravaged population of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in the aftermath of Cyclone Mora. Furthermore, the Government pledged medical assistance worth US\$ 1 million to Yemen and launched 'Operation Insaniyat' for relief of displaced persons in Bangladesh.

The Government has made domestic transformation of the economy intrinsic to its foreign policy strategy. The close association between foreign policy and domestic developmental aspirations has shown significant results in terms of increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows and creating a favourable investment climate. This was proven by the considerable leap in the World Bank's ease of doing business rankings from 142 in 2014 to 100 in 2017. The period also saw fast tracking of international partnerships aimed at promoting and facilitating India's flagship developmental initiatives such as Smart Cities, Skill India, Digital India and Namami Gange etc. A notable achievement was laying the foundation stone of India's first high speed railway project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in September 2017. India also hosted the 52nd annual meeting of African Development Bank (AfDB) Group.

The emphasis on expanding India's diplomatic footprint to new countries and regions continued this year, with high-level exchanges with a number of countries around the world, many of which had not seen such engagements in recent years. This included our partners in Africa, Latin America and the



Caribbean region. At the level of Heads of State and Government, the year witnessed incoming visits by the Prime Ministers of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Australia, Japan, Latvia, Mauritius, Uganda, Israel and Italy, *inter-alia* and, by the Presidents of Turkey, Belarus, Armenia, Palestine, Afghanistan, Cyprus and Switzerland. Similarly, outgoing visits included those by President to Djibouti and Ethiopia and by Vice President to Poland, Armenia, Uganda, Rwanda and Jakarta. Prime Minister interacted with the new leadership in the USA and France and provided fresh impetus to our existing warm relations with the UAE, Japan, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, Israel, Philippines, Myanmar, China, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Kazakhstan and Russia. This extensive diplomatic outreach is illustrative of the Government's policy of proactive engagements in a fast changing world order so as to preserve and promote our national interests.

On the issue of terrorism, India consistently advocated a policy of zero tolerance. It remained steadfast in its commitment to combat terrorism and supported efforts to expand cooperation to deal with this threat. Prime Minister reiterated the importance of global efforts to combat terrorism and called for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. During the period under review, Prime Minister proposed a 11-point action plan to G20 leaders in Hamburg and at the BRICS Summit declaration in Xiamen. The plan calls for holding accountable those committing, organising, or supporting terrorist acts. Government continued to work under established frameworks with partner countries like the USA, Russia, Japan and the EU to disrupt financial flows to terrorists and to identify their assets. In the SCO, India's focus will be on strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation efforts with the Central Asian countries.

A major emphasis of the Government over the years has been on cultural diplomacy by utilising India's cultural heritage and civilisational values and ethos to enhance its standing in the world. The diaspora plays a significant role in this diplomatic outreach, as it is both a component and the target audience. The successful, widespread celebration and participation in the third International Day of Yoga highlights the continued efficacy of India's universal culture. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) organised a number of events across the world to showcase India's rich heritage, including a seminar on Sanskrit in France and a Virat Hindi Kavi Sammelan in the UK. The opening of an Indian Cultural

Centre at Tel Aviv was announced during the visit of the Prime Minister to Israel.

The Government has made a concerted effort to engage with the Indian Diaspora over the years and extended to them its support and encouragement for contributing to their country of origin. Apart from organising the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas held biennially, the Ministry regularly organises Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas outside India to connect with the Indian Diaspora in specific regions to familiarise them with the policies and programmes of the Government and enable them to contribute to India's development and growth. A special Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held in Singapore in January 2018 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations. The 1st PIO - Parliamentarian Conference was organised in New Delhi on 9 January 2018. The state-of-the-art Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK) inaugurated by Prime Minister in October 2016 has emerged as a nerve centre of activities engaging diaspora.

The Government's emphasis on providing citizen-centric governance and make its public service delivery functions more efficient continued this year. The e-TOURIST VISA (eTV) launched in April 2015 has been further liberalized as E-Visa, extending its eligibility from tourism to include business and medical purposes, and expanding its coverage to 161 countries and increasing the duration of stay permitted under the scheme. The process of consular grievance redressal for Indians living abroad has also been improved by making MADAD or the Consular Services Management System available on Mobile Apps and through social media.

The above was summary of major developments along the broad contours of foreign policy strategy pursued by the government during the year 2017-18. The following pages will dwell on them in greater detail and outline various activities developments in international relations during the year.

## India's Neighbours

**Afghanistan:** India-Afghanistan strategic relationship saw further consolidation with expansion in the multifaceted cooperation in all areas, including political, defence, security, trade and investment, connectivity, development partnership, social & cultural issues, education and capacity building. This was facilitated by exchange of several high-level visits, including visits of President of Afghanistan, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in October; Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in September and November 2017; Second Vice

President of Afghanistan, Mohammad Sarwar Danish in December and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Salahuddin Rabbani in September 2017.

At all the meetings, Indian side emphasized that the two nations enjoyed time-tested and friendly relationship and reiterated India's abiding support for a united, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, stable, prosperous and pluralistic Afghanistan. Both sides also expressed grave concern at the incidents of terror and violence and noted that terrorism presented the greatest threat to peace, stability and progress of the region and beyond. Both sides also called for an end to all forms of support, state sponsorship, safe havens and sanctuaries to terrorists against Afghanistan.

Success of India's bilateral relationship with Afghanistan can be gauged by the description of India by Afghan leadership as the preferred development partner. India continues to enjoy high level of public confidence and support in Afghanistan. During this time, India's constructive and positive role in Afghanistan also garnered wide appreciation from the international community.

**Bangladesh:** Continued high-level visits and exchanges, including at the highest political levels between India and Bangladesh helped maintain the momentum of bilateral relations between the two countries. Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, paid a State Visit to India in April 2017 following which tangible progress was made on mutually identified initiatives in multifaceted areas through broadening of cooperation and implementation of the decisions taken during the visit. The multi-dimensional bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh encompassed sectors such as trade and investment, security, connectivity, border management, water, power, shipping, development cooperation, people to people exchanges, human resource development, amongst others.

**Bhutan:** India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by deep mutual trust and understanding. The year 2017-18 saw sustained progress in all areas of cooperation. The momentum of bilateral ties was carried forward by high level visits and meetings of various bilateral mechanisms.

Prime Minister of Bhutan visited Guwahati on 31 March 2017 to attend the opening of the 'Namami Brahmaputra' river festival as the Guest of Honour. Finance Minister, Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, visited India on 3 April 2017 to attend

the South Asian Sub regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Finance Ministers Meeting in New Delhi. On the sidelines he met Finance Minister of India, Shri Arun Jaitley. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj met Foreign Minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Damcho Dorji on the sidelines of 15th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) meeting in Kathmandu on 11 August 2017. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 18 September 2017. The two leaders discussed wide range of issues of mutual interest including development cooperation between the two countries.

His Majesty along with Her Majesty, the Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck and His Royal Highness Prince Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck visited India from 31 October-3 November 2017. The visit was the first visit of His Royal Highness the Gyalsey to India. During the visit His Majesty the King of Bhutan had meetings with the President Shri Ramnath Kovind, Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and other dignitaries.

Work on development projects progressed at a steady pace in the year 2017-18 under the Government of India (GoI) assistance package of ₹4,500 crores towards the 11th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2013-18). GoI has committed ₹2,800 crore as Project Tied Assistance (PTA), ₹850 crore for Programme Grant and ₹850 crore for Small Development Projects (SDPs) for Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan. In addition to the above, GoI has also committed ₹500 crore as Economic Stimulus Package.

**China:** The bilateral relations between India and China have progressed under the overall context of Closer Developmental Partnership between the two countries even as both sides managed their differences through dialogue. There have been regular interactions at the summit level. During 2017, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Xi Jinping on several occasions on the sidelines of multilateral events. The Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) Summit in China provided opportunities for interactions at ministerial as well as working level between the two countries across political, economic, security and cultural sphere. Important visits from the Chinese side included Foreign Minister Wang Yi, State Councilor and Politburo Member Yang Jiechi in December 2017 for attending the Russia, India, China (RIC) Foreign Ministers' meeting and co-chairing the 20th meeting of the Special Representatives of India and

China on the Boundary Question respectively. Exchanges under a variety of bilateral dialogue mechanisms also took place during the course of the year.

**Maldives:** India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy continued to guide its multifaceted relations with Maldives. The specific focus during the period was on capacity and institution building, besides extending assistance in defence, health and education sectors. Exchange of visits at the level of policymakers added momentum to the close and friendly relationship. Holding of the 2nd India-Maldives Joint Staff Talks, the first round of Consular Talks in New Delhi in 2017 and the visit of the Foreign Minister of Maldives as the Special Envoy of the President of Maldives in January 2018 were the highlights of the growing bilateral cooperation.

**Mauritius:** India and Mauritius enjoy close political, economic, cultural and diaspora linkages. With 70% of the population of Mauritius of Indian origin, Mauritius has been a hub for financial services and one of the largest routes for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. Mauritius is also an important gateway for Indian investments into Africa. There is close bilateral defence partnership, focusing in particular on maritime security.

The India-Mauritius partnership further deepened and diversified across a broad spectrum during this period. The State Visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth to India in May 2017 and the visit by a Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha to Mauritius in June 2017 provided fresh momentum to our bilateral engagement. Indian development assistance projects currently underway in Mauritius added new content to this special partnership.

**Myanmar:** India's relations with Myanmar in 2017 continued to be special, with culture and people-to-people links being of particular strength and Buddhism providing a special link. Myanmar being the only Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) country adjoining India, therefore, remained as our gateway to South East Asia and India's first partner in its 'Act East' Policy.

The highlight of our bilateral relations with Myanmar in 2017 was the first State Visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Myanmar from 5-7 September 2017. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas of India also visited Myanmar in February 2017. In June 2017, the 6th India – Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting was held in New Delhi that was co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce & Industry of

India and the Commerce Minister of Myanmar. Besides, throughout 2017, India demonstrated strong commitment towards meeting Myanmar's developmental needs through implementation of developmental projects, including training, provision of expertise, Lines of Credit (LOC) and/or grants-in-aid. Bilateral cooperation between India and Myanmar had aimed at promotion of inclusive growth and development to contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in the two countries as also in the region.

**Nepal:** India-Nepal relations derive strength and salience from age-old cultural and religious ties, close people-to-people contacts, multi-faceted economic and development partnership reinforced by open borders and national treatment accorded to each other's citizens. As a part of intensive bilateral engagements, President of Nepal, Ms Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a State visit to India in April 2017. Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba paid a State visit to India in August 2017. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj attended the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting in Kathmandu in August 2017. In keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges, EAM paid another visit to Nepal in February 2017.

The high-level visits and regular meetings of bilateral mechanisms provided an opportunity to review bilateral partnership and to discuss new initiatives for mutual benefit. India and Nepal have comprehensive economic and developmental cooperation. India is the largest trade partner of Nepal. A number of social and physical infrastructure projects within Nepal and cross-border connectivity projects are in different phases of implementation. The recent focus has been on expeditious implementation of ongoing projects. A bilateral 'Oversight Mechanism' has been established to expedite project implementation. Power sector cooperation has deepened with the completion of two more cross-border transmission lines. Community driven Small Development Projects like schools, roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, are benefiting people in different districts of Nepal. Under the four Lines of Credit of over US\$ 1.65 billion extended by Government of India (GoI), a number of infrastructure projects, including post-earthquake reconstruction projects are being implemented in Nepal. Sector-specific Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed in August 2017 have paved the way for implementation of reconstruction projects in housing, health, education and cultural heritage sectors of Nepal. India and Nepal have robust cooperation in the area of capacity building and human

resource development. India offers around 3,000 scholarships to Nepalese students every year, providing opportunities to study in Nepal and in India. More than 250 scholarships are offered annually for Government and non-Government employees of Nepal for training in technical institutes in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

**Pakistan:** During the period under review, the frequency and intensity of bilateral exchanges between India and Pakistan remained limited. Our efforts to normalise relations with Pakistan continued to be thwarted by Pakistan's support for cross-border infiltration and ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and International Boundary. Pakistan vitiated the atmosphere for any meaningful engagement through its efforts at mainstreaming internationally proscribed terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and also by lack of seriousness in bringing to justice perpetrators of terror attacks, including the Mumbai terror attacks of 2008 and Pathankot attacks of 2016. GoI continued its efforts to secure the release of Kulbhushan Jadhav through both diplomatic and legal mechanisms. Repatriation of Uzma and Bijoyeta Bannerjee, Indian women in distress in Pakistan, was facilitated through legal and diplomatic means.

**Seychelles:** India-Seychelles relationship has embarked on new avenues of cooperation in recent months with robust 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 and added further substance to the bilateral engagement during the period.

In recognition of the strategic convergence of the two countries in the Indian Ocean region, a bilateral agreement on the development, management, operation and maintenance of facilities on Assumption Island in Seychelles was signed on 27 January 2018 in Victoria, Mahe. The agreement is an important step forward in further deepening bilateral defence and security cooperation.

The Speaker of Seychelles National Assembly led a high level Parliamentary delegation to India in August 2017. As Seychelles experienced a new cohabitation government, the two countries further deepened their mutually beneficial partnership during the period.

**Sri Lanka:** India-Sri Lanka relations continued on the high growth trajectory, both in terms of high-level political

engagements and economic and people-to-people exchanges during the period. The hallmark of this active phase in the relationship was a more proactive and pragmatic approach to cooperation in the spheres of economic and development partnership, with a strong emphasis on timelines for implementation with regard to bilateral projects.

The landmark visit of Prime Minister to Sri Lanka in May 2017 marked a qualitative transformation in the bilateral engagement. Closer cooperation in bilateral economic projects received a further boost during Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit in April 2017 with the signing of a MoU for Cooperation in Economic Projects. India-Sri Lanka development partnership further intensified and broadened in scope during this period. Sri Lanka continued to be one of the major recipients of development credit given by GoI with assistance extended to large number of projects in areas like education, health, connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and capacity building. India remained as the first responder in Sri Lanka's hour of need on account of natural calamities in 2017 with relief and rehabilitation assistance extended during drought and flood situations. India continued to support Sri Lanka in its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and negotiated political settlement acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka.

**Indian Ocean Region:** India's proactive engagement in the Indian Ocean Region was further intensified during the period. Guided by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), India's approach to the region was directed towards advancing cooperation and using capabilities for larger benefit.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) mechanism has a vital role to play in realizing this common aspiration for the region. India considers IORA as an important instrument for promoting cooperation and ensuring stability in the region. India has been supportive of further invigoration of IORA activities across a wide spectrum, ranging from renewable energy and the Blue Economy to maritime safety and security.

The focus during the period was on implementing wide ranging initiatives announced by India during the IORA Leaders' Summit on 7 March 2017 in Jakarta and the meetings of the Council of Ministers and Committee of Senior Officials in the preceding years.

## South-East Asia and Asia-Pacific

**Australia:** India's relations with Australia entered a more intensive phase due to regular exchange of high-level visits during the year. Australia is increasingly emerging as an important partner in different sectors including development of mineral resources, science and technology, education and skills and water resources management. Recognising importance of relationship between India and Australia, Australia's Foreign Policy White Paper, released by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on 23 November 2017 sees India in the front rank of Australia's international partnerships.

**Brunei Darussalam:** Bilateral relations between India and Brunei Darussalam continued to be close and friendly. The year marks the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership. 2017 was also the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. These landmark events further increased interactions between the two countries through a number of events in all areas including political, defence, cultural and sports. These landmark events further increased interactions between the two countries through a number of events in all areas including political, defence, cultural and sports. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a meeting with His Majesty Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, on 14 November 2017 in Manila on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit (EAS).

**Cambodia:** Bilateral relations with Cambodia progressed in various fields including economic, cultural, people-to-people contact, capacity building and developmental projects. A delegation from Rajya Sabha Secretariat visited Cambodia in June 2017 within the framework of MoU signed between Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Cambodian Senate in September 2016 to encourage parliamentary exchanges. Indian assistance to Cambodia continued in the field of water resources development, electric transmission line, restoration and conservation of temples and capacity building.

**Indonesia:** With the visit of Indonesian President to India in December 2016, the bilateral relations with Indonesia took a steep upward trajectory. The year 2017 witnessed many high-level political engagements that have helped in reinvigorating our relationship and has provided the necessary momentum to the bilateral relations.

**Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR):** The year saw a continued upward trend in bilateral relations with Lao PDR.

Infrastructure projects in areas of irrigation systems, capacity building and human resources and cultural cooperation in restoration of heritage monuments and regular high-level visits were focus of cooperation.

**Malaysia:** The strategic partnership, established between the two countries in October 2010 and the traditionally close relations, were given a boost with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Malaysia in November 2015. The relations have been elevated to a higher level with the State Visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak to India on 30 March-4 April 2017. The visit coincided with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of India-Malaysia diplomatic relations.

**New Zealand:** India's relations with New Zealand continued to deepen and expand in various fields such as economic, scientific, cultural, people-to-people contact and coordination on regional and issues of global importance. Sustained high level contacts led to an increasingly multifaceted profile of bilateral engagement as also to a growing level of coordination at regional and multilateral forums.

**Philippines:** The year 2017 was marked by unprecedented high-level exchanges to the Philippines culminating in the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Philippines from 12-14 November 2017 to attend the 31st ASEAN and EAS Summits in Manila. During his visit, Prime Minister had extensive engagements including attending the gala dinner and the opening ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, the East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the India-ASEAN Summit.

**Singapore:** During this year, India-Singapore bilateral relations achieved important strides in diverse areas including trade and investment, defence, security, skills, urban planning, and civil aviation.

**Thailand:** India's relationship with Thailand continued to deepen and strengthened during the year with the exchange of high-level visits and enhanced interactions in the areas of trade, investment, defence and security. This year (2017) both countries celebrated 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

**Timor Leste:** India participated in the swearing in ceremony of President Francisco Guterres and 15th anniversary of the restoration of Independence of Timor-Leste held in Dili on 19-20 May 2017.

**Vietnam:** India and Vietnam are celebrating 2017 as the Year of Friendship for commemorating the 45th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations and the 10th anniversary of establishment of Strategic Partnership.

**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):** 2017 was a landmark year, both for ASEAN and for ASEAN-India relations. While ASEAN celebrated fifty years of its existence this year, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership, fifteen years of summit level relationship and five years of strategic partnership with ASEAN. Based on the theme of the 25th anniversary celebration of ASEAN-India partnership, 'Shared Values, Common Destiny', India organised commemorative events in India as well as in ASEAN countries encompassing the three pillars of political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation. The grand culmination of the celebrations was the ASEAN India Commemorative Summit held on 25 January 2018 which was hosted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and attended by leaders of all ten ASEAN countries. In an unprecedented gesture, signifying the importance that we attach to our partnership with ASEAN, the ten leaders were also the Chief Guests at the Republic Day Parade 2018.

## East Asia

**Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK):** Since its inception in December 1973, the diplomatic relations between India and DPRK have been cordial. In 2017, DPRK conducted a series of missile and nuclear tests. India deplored the nuclear and ballistic missile programme of the DPRK and remains concerned about the proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies which has adversely impacted India's national security.

**Japan:** India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years, propelled by successful and regular high-level visits. Highlight of India-Japan relations in 2017 was Japanese Prime Minister Abe's visit to India from 12-14 September 2017 for the 12th Annual Summit (fourth between the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe) during which both sides reviewed the recent progress in the multi-faceted cooperation under the framework of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.

**Republic of Korea (RoK):** India-RoK bilateral relationship, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership during the

visit of Prime Minister to RoK in 2015, gathered further momentum following the election of President Moon Jae-in in May 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with President Moon Jae-in during the G-20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017, and extended invitation for him to visit India. Deepening engagements on the economic side, an MoU between Export-Import (EXIM) Banks of the two countries to establish US\$ 9 billion in Korean concessional credit and an agreement between the two governments on US\$ 1 billion in Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) funding for infrastructure development projects in India were signed during the visit of Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley to RoK in June 2017. Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu also visited RoK in September 2017 and undertook a ministerial review of the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Exchanges under wide-ranging bilateral dialogue mechanisms across political, economic, security, academic and cultural sphere also continued at steady pace.

**Mongolia:** India's traditionally friendly and cordial relations with Mongolia have steadily improved over the years, following the Prime Minister's historic visit to Mongolia in May 2015. India-Mongolia relations were upgraded to Strategic Partnership during the visit.

India continued to provide technical and economic cooperation to Mongolia in higher education, Information & Communication Technology and human resource development. An LOC of US \$1 billion utilization is underway for construction of first ever oil refinery in Mongolia. This is the largest project being undertaken by the GoI under its LOC scheme.

## Eurasia

The year 2017 marked seventy years of diplomatic relations between India and Russia and twenty five years of diplomatic relations between India and the other countries in Eurasia. The occasions were celebrated through exchange of messages between the dignitaries of the two sides, joint issues of commemorative postal stamps and organization of celebratory events covering diverse areas of bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a very successful visit to St. Petersburg in June 2017 for the 18th India-Russia Annual Summit, where he also participated in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum as the 'Guest of Honour'. The visit resulted in the adoption of 'St. Petersburg

Declaration' and conclusion of twelve documents related to cooperation in nuclear energy, science and technology, railways, culture, precious stones, engineering, finance, infrastructure, and investment. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also had a separate meeting with governors of sixteen Russian regions. The first-ever joint exercise, 'INDRA 2017' involving all the three services took place in Vladivostok from 19-29 October 2017. 1st and 2nd editions of India-Russia Military-Industrial Conference took place in Delhi in March 2017 and in Moscow in August 2017. Inaugural meeting of the India-Russia High Level Committee on Science and Technology took place in Novosibirsk on 21 June 2017 on the sidelines of technology exhibition 'Technoprom'. During 2017, there were around thirteen visits from India to Russia at the Ministerial level or higher including two visits each by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Defence Minister, and National Security Adviser. Similarly, there were five Ministerial level visits from Russia to India.

15th RIC (Russia India China) Foreign Ministerial meeting was held in New Delhi on 11 December 2017 when, on its margins, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj had bilateral meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on 11 December 2017. Foreign Minister Lavrov and Foreign Minister Wang Yi also called on President Shri Ramnath Kovind.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Kazakhstan on 8 & 9 June 2017, to take part in the Heads of State summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). India joined SCO as a full member during the Summit. On the sidelines of the summit, he had a bilateral meeting with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko visited New Delhi on 11 & 12 September 2017. President of Armenia Mr. Serzh Sargsyan visited India from 2-4 November 2017. Earlier, Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari visited Armenia from 24-26 April 2017.

First round of negotiations between India and Eurasian Economic Union are scheduled in January 2018. During the year multiple business delegations were exchanged and participation in various trade events organized with the countries in the region. The third International Day of Yoga was celebrated enthusiastically across all the countries in Eurasia in June 2017. Track-II Dialogue, exchange of experts and students, pursuit of higher education, university to university tie ups, cultural and people-to-people exchanges

including for availing medical services in India supplemented official talks paving way for productive and meaningful bonds. ITEC courses and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships continued to be popular.

## The Gulf and West Asia

**Gulf:** The growing political engagement with the countries in the region continued during the year starting with the successful State Visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations in January 2017. Among the other key high-level political interactions were the visits to India by Foreign Affairs Ministers of Oman, Yemen, UAE, Iraq and Qatar. On the Indian side, Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd), visited Iraq on 12-14 July 2017. MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar led the Hajj Goodwill Delegation to Jeddah and a delegation for the 3rd Joint Ministerial Commission (JCM) Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Kuwait both in September 2017. He also participated in the 13th Regional Security Summit of the Annual Manama Dialogue in December 2017. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj met with the foreign ministers of GCC countries in September 2017 on the sidelines of the 72nd session of UN General Assembly at New York.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit UAE and Oman in February 2018 on state visit which would further cement our strong ties with the region. Growing ties with the region were also reflected in the International Yoga day being celebrated across the region. India has been accorded 'Guest of Honour Country' status for the Janadriyah Festival in Saudi Arabia in February 2018 and the annual cultural festival of UAE, the Abu Dhabi Festival to be held in March 2018. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj would be leading the Indian delegation for India's participation in the Janadriyah festival.

**Iran:** This year saw an intense engagement with Iran at both political and functional levels. The year saw several important bilateral visits both incoming and outgoing as well as interactions between high level dignitaries in multilateral forums. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of Islamic Republic of Iran is visiting India on a two-day State visit on 17-18 February 2018.

**WANA:** The region continues to remain important from energy security, food security and for global peace and security. Relations with all the countries of WANA region were taken

forward in a calibrated manner, through regular holding of institutional dialogue mechanisms and high level exchange of visits. The region was marked by a number of firsts as far as our bilateral relations with Israel, Palestine and Djibouti are concerned. President of India visited Djibouti which was the first ever visit by an Indian President to Djibouti. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook the first ever historic visit to Israel on the occasion of 25 years of diplomatic relations. He will also undertake another historic visit to Palestine in February of 2018. Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel visited India in January 2018 as the culmination of the celebrations to mark 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. The King of Jordan, H.M. King Abdullah II is scheduled to visit India from 28 February- 1 March 2018, which is expected to be an important milestone in taking the India-Jordan relations to a higher level. Maghreb region continues to be important for our food security as the region remains primary source of rock phosphate and its derivatives. Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea are located in the strategically important Horn of Africa region that will be crucial for the security of our maritime trade passing through Red Sea-Gulf of Aden region.

## Africa

**East & South Africa:** During the year 2017-18, our relations with Africa acquired a different quality and content. Continuing with the inclusive and continental approach that began with the hosting of IAFS-III, we further enhanced our political engagement with African countries. President chose Africa for his first overseas destination and visited Ethiopia and Djibouti. This was also the first presidential visit to these countries after a gap of over 45 years. In May 2017, we hosted the meeting of African Development Bank (AfDB) on Indian soil for the first time; which was attended by 3 HOS/HOG from Africa in addition to several other dignitaries and Ministers. The first ever VVIP visit to Madagascar is scheduled in March 2018. All the countries in the continent have been visited by India at least at the Ministerial level, during the current government's tenure. King of Lesotho, former Presidents of Namibia and Botswana undertook private visits to India during this year.

India also took initiatives to catalyse collective engagement in Africa with like-minded countries. The initiation of a dialogue with Japan on Asia-Africa Connectivity and launch of Asia Africa Growth Corridor were highlights of the year. Dialogues

on Africa were initiated for the first time with Germany (May 2017), France (June 2017) and Russia (November 2017). For the first time, India also attended TICAD-VI Ministerial Review Meeting held in Maputo in August 2017. India also participated in G-20 Conference on Africa and the Compact initiative. Our engagement with Japan on Africa intensified with the 5th and 6th rounds of Dialogue.

With respect to Africa, another salient feature was enhanced focus on maritime security. Several initiatives under bilateral and multilateral frameworks such as IORA, IBSA and BRICS were taken to further our objectives in this regard. The year saw first ever visit by COSC and CNS to Mozambique and Ist Joint Defence Committee meeting with Madagascar. JDCs and JWG on Defence were also held with South Africa and Mozambique. Ship visits to South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania and Madagascar and visits by Defence delegations took place during this year. New initiatives were taken in the area of Defence training.

The year also saw enhanced focus on our cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sector with gifting of medicines and medical equipment including Bhabhatron and ambulances, etc., to various African countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Our robust development partnership continued to be supplemented with new initiatives such as public-private cooperation programmes in the area of health. An AYUSH Information Cell was launched in Tanzania. An Expert Working Group Meeting was organized by ICMR and MEA in April 2017 to concretize the recommendations made by the First India-Africa Health Sciences Meet.

Initiation /Regular holding of Institutional Mechanisms added to the robust and dynamic engagement with Africa. First Foreign Office Consultations to strengthen and deepen bilateral ties were held with Mozambique, Swaziland (August 2017) and Burundi (November 2017). Ist JWG on ICT with South Africa, First JWG on Agriculture with Malawi were held. The next rounds of JBCC meeting with Lesotho (December 2017), FOC with South Africa (January 2018) and JWG on Mining with Malawi; and JTC at the Ministerial level with Namibia and Tanzania (August 2017) also took place.

On the Development Cooperation front, the year saw establishment of Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Gambia, Burkina Faso and Mozambique. IT Centres were established in South Africa and Lesotho. Among the LoC



projects, Water Supply project in Tanzania, Oil reserve in Malawi, Tendaho sugar project in Ethiopia (Phase-I) and Rural Electricity Expansion Project (Phase-I) in Gambia were completed. New LoC Projects were announced/ initiated including in Kenya, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Tanzania. We also continued to assist by providing food grains, equipment, books, vehicles and cash grants to various African countries. In addition to ITEC and ICCR scholarship programs, 18 programs in India and 6 in Africa were conducted exclusively for African candidates.

On the economic front, our trade with Africa multiplied and diversified. A Regional CII Exim Bank Conclave was held in Kampala that was inaugurated by President Museveni of Uganda. India became the 5th largest investor in Africa with cumulative investment estimated at US\$ 54 billion. New assets were acquired by OVL in Namibia. 13th India Africa Exim Bank Conclave is scheduled from 22-23 March 2018.

Among the important agreements concluded this year include, Trade Agreement with Ethiopia, DTAA with Kenya, ICT agreement with Ethiopia, Visa Waiver agreements for Diplomats with Kenya and Rwanda.

African countries overwhelmingly joined the Indo-French initiative International Solar Alliance (ISA). Over half of the countries that have joined ISA so far, are from Africa. Tremendous support was received from Africa on India's candidature in multilateral forums, including ICJ, ITLOS, UNESCO Executive Board and IMO. India contributed to AMISOM and Solidarity Summit on Refugees. Enthusiastic participation at the Ministerial level from Africa was seen at many Indian events such as 3rd Global Exhibition on Services (GES), April 2017; 3rd Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) Nov. 2017, India Africa Health Forum etc.

The Electronic Tourist Visa (ETV) Facility was expanded to cover more than 25 countries from Africa. Air connectivity was enhanced with commencement of direct flights of Rwandair (April 2017) and increase in frequency of Ethiopian airlines. Cultural cooperation increased with many countries enthusiastically celebrating Festivals of India, International Yoga Day and Indian festivals.

Reinvigorated and multi-dimensional in scope, the India-Africa partnership is destined to grow in the coming year.

**West Africa:** India's relations with countries of West Africa continued on an upward trajectory during the period under review. The region (covering twenty five countries of west,

north-west, central and south-west Africa) is home to Africa's largest population and fastest growing economies with largest proven reserves of energy resources and minerals. The region is rich in all known minerals. India sources about 18 % of its crude oil requirements from this region (Nigeria alone accounts for 11-12%). India imports over US\$ 2 billion worth of gold from Ghana per annum. India also sources ninety percent of raw cashew from countries in the region including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Senegal. Although the West African region continues to gain strategic importance for India and remains politically stable, it continues to have some hot spots including the Boko Haram insurgency affecting Nigeria and its neighbours (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin), northern Mali, eastern DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), CAR (Central African Republic) and language crisis in Cameroon (two Anglophone regions asking for more rights and autonomy). There have, however, been better coordination and synergy of efforts amongst the countries of the region to deal with the terrorist menace. There are currently 5,000 plus Indian troops, military observers, and police personnel in the Democratic Republic of Congo under MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo).

During the year, there were democratic transitions in Ghana and the Gambia (democratically elected Adama Barrow took over as President in January 2017 after ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States – leaders pressurized Yahya Jammeh to step down after twenty-two years in power and leave the country into exile). In Angola too, there was a historic transition in August 2017 albeit with the same political party in power (MPLA - Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola); former Defence Minister Joao Lourenco took over as President from José dos Santos who had remained Angola's President for thirty-eight years.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Senegalese President Mr. Macky Sall twice during the year (during AfDB – African Development Bank meeting in Gandhinagar in May 2017 and on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017), Guinea's President Prof. Alpha Condé (as African Union Chairman on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg), Beninese President Patrice Talon and former Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama (both at the AfDB meeting in Gandhinagar in May 2017). Major incoming visits included the Vice Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (November

2017), Foreign Ministers of Equatorial Guinea (October 2017) and Republic of Guinea (November 2017). Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar, visited Mali, Republic of Congo, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea (first-ever ministerial visit from India) and Senegal.

As far as economic and commercial relations are concerned, India's bilateral trade with the region currently stands at around US\$ 22 billion. Capacity building, skill development and strengthening of physical and social infrastructure have remained at the centre of India's expanding development partnership with the region. For 2017-18, around 1,450 civilian ITEC slots; over 200 defence slots (111 slots to Nigeria) and 300 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships were allocated to West African (WA) countries. All twenty-five WA countries supported the candidature of Justice Dalveer Bhandari at the ICJ elections in November 2017. Fifteen WA countries have signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement with four having ratified it too (Ghana, Mali, Niger and Republic of Guinea).

## Europe and European Union

**Central Europe:** India continued with its policy of engaging with the countries of Central Europe to consolidate bilateral relations. On political issues, there was good understanding, both at bilateral and multilateral forums. The growing bilateral trade, business exchanges, educational exchanges and cultural events added to our growing ties with the region. The year saw incoming high level visits from Cyprus, Turkey, Switzerland and Latvia. There were outgoing visits of former Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari to Poland and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to World Economic Forum and bilateral meeting at Davos, Switzerland. The focus during the year was on disseminating information about progress on the parameters of Ease of Doing Business, creating a unified market through the Goods and Services Tax, liberalization of investment and licensing policies, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, productive disinvestment measures, launch of digital employment exchanges and Government initiatives namely Make in India, start-up/stand-up India, housing for all, urban renewal and rejuvenation, infrastructure including digital infrastructure and Industrial Corridors, Swachh Bharat and Skill India. India and the central European countries continued to extend support to each other in various international fora including the support for each other

candidates in international organizations. The 4th India Europe twenty-nine business forum was organized in New Delhi on 5 & 6 March 2018, jointly by Ministry of External Affairs and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

**West Europe:** India's engagement with countries in Europe West including the Brussels, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Andorra and Monaco saw an upswing during fiscal 2016-17. The year was marked with a series of high-level political visits. We had the 14th India-EU Summit in Delhi on 6 October 2017. The Joint Statement released on the occasion, reaffirmed India-EU as natural partners in preserving a multi-polar rule-based international order, upholding norms and principles and working together for global peace and stability, inclusive growth and sustainable development in all parts of the world. The European Investment Bank also established its South Asian Regional Office in New Delhi. The Prime Minister of Italy – Mr. Paolo Gentiloni visited India on 30 October 2017, the first in the last ten years. The visit, the first in the last 10 years, not only gave a fresh impetus to the bilateral ties, but also sought to revitalize on-going multi-sectoral engagements between the two countries. To commemorate 70 years of establishment of diplomatic ties, King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium visited India from 5-11 November 2017. The visit by the royal couple was aimed at broad-basing the overall political and economic engagement between the two countries. The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited India from 8-9 November 2017. The visit was in connection with the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London, which is scheduled to take place from 17-20 April 2018. Overall, India's engagement with the countries in Europe West during the year has been deepened with enhanced cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure, science and technology, research and development, student exchanges, and tourism flows.

## The Americas

**United States:** The India-US bilateral relations continue to witness progress in all key areas of the strategic partnership, including security, defence, economic, energy, technology and people-to-people contact. The assumption of Office by President Donald Trump in early 2017 imparted a fresh momentum to bilateral engagements. Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi was one of the first foreign leaders to speak to President-elect Donald Trump on 9 November 2016. Since then, both leaders have met thrice and spoken on phone on several occasions.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the US from 25-26 June 2017 at the invitation of President Donald Trump. The main outcomes reached during the Summit included: further strengthening of counter-terrorism co-operation; establishment of a new consultation mechanism on domestic and international terrorist designations proposals; designation of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist; firm message to Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries; commitment to deepen defense and maritime-security cooperation; commitment to strengthen the India-US partnership in the Indo-Pacific region; commitment to intensify digital partnership to fully harness innovation capabilities; and India's entry into the International Expedited Traveler Initiative (Global Entry program).

Post-Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit, there were a series of exchanges at political and functional levels in key areas of the strategic partnership including defence and security; counter-terrorism; trade and economic issues; energy; people-to-people contacts; and consultations on regional and international issues. Both countries have agreed to launch a new 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue involving foreign affairs and defence ministries to bring greater synergy in our strategic and defence engagements.

Defence and Security cooperation was a key component of the bilateral strategic engagement during the year. In the area of counterterrorism, designation by the US of Hizb-ul-Mujahiddin as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and of its leader Syed Salahuddin as Specially Designated Foreign Terrorist as well as the establishment of a new mechanism on domestic and international designations were notable accomplishments. Progress was also made across all areas of defence engagement including defence trade, training and exercises. The Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was operationalised during the year. There was progress in the implementation of the understanding reached following the US recognition of India as a "Major Defence Partner" in 2016 as well as in the India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI). India hosted the 21st edition of the Trilateral Naval Exercise 'Malabar'

involving the naval forces of India, United States and Japan in July 2017.

Bilateral energy cooperation diversified into new areas of engagement with India commencing purchase of US-origin oil during the year. The first shipment of crude oil cargo from the US arrived in October 2017. The bilateral Energy Dialogue that took place in February 2018 considered new avenues for further expansion of Strategic Energy Partnership.

India-US economic and commercial relations continued to expand during 2017. The US remains India's largest trading partner, goods and services combined. Bilateral trade in goods and services amounted to US\$114 billion and the two-way merchandise trade was US\$66.7 billion in 2016. During the first ten months of 2017, bilateral merchandise trade stood at US\$62.26 billion with the balance of trade in favour of India at US\$ 19.72 billion.

Cooperation in innovation and entrepreneurship crossed a new milestone with India and the US co-hosting the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Hyderabad in November with the theme of Women First, Prosperity for All. The US side was led by Ms. Ivanka Trump, Advisor to the US President. The summit brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and ecosystem supporters from 150 countries. This year also witnessed the first edition of the India-US Forum, held in New Delhi in July-August 2017, which brought together leading personalities from Government, politics, industry, think-tanks and media for intensive discussions on the India-US relationship.

**Canada:** India-Canada bilateral relations are underpinned by shared values of democracy and pluralism; expanding economic engagement; regular high-level interactions and extensive people-to-people ties. The relationship received a new momentum with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Canada in April 2015, and the elevation of bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership. The highlight in 2018 was the visit of Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau to India in February 2018. During the visit, there were concrete outcomes in the areas of energy, infrastructure, civil nuclear cooperation and skill development.

During the year, there were a series of high-level visits and meetings of bilateral mechanisms namely, India-Canada Security Dialogue, Trade Ministerial Dialogue, Joint Working Group of Agriculture, Joint Committee of Science and Technology and Joint Committee of Civil Nuclear

Cooperation. Canada was a partner country for the Technology Summit 2017, held in New Delhi on 14-15 November 2017.

Bilateral Trade amounted to US\$ 6.13 billion for FY 2016-17. Canadian Pension Funds have cumulatively invested (till September 2017) around US\$ 11.20 billion in India and are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for investments. With the aim of giving fresh impetus to bilateral economic engagement, technical negotiations continued on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA).

Canada is home to over 1.4 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) who comprise more than 3% of the country's population. There has been a significant increase in number of Indian students in Canada which is now estimated at 1,00,000. Commencement of direct flights between Indian and Canadian cities has contributed to strengthening of people-to-people links. The Department of Posts, India and Canada Post for the first time jointly issued commemorative stamps on the theme of Diwali.

**Latin America and Caribbean Countries:** India and the Latin America region have continued to be distinct priorities for each other. India attaches importance to its relations with the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region and has warm and friendly relations with each of the countries. There are shared common values of democracy and respect for human rights. Our countries also share common membership of many international organizations and work closely together in the UN, G-77, NAM etc. Latin America and India have a lot in common culturally with a variety of ancestries, ethnic groups and races. The presence of about one million Indian diaspora adds a special dimension to this relationship.

The importance of India's relations with countries of LAC region underscored by Prime Minister Modi during his first visit to the region in 2014 (Brazil) continued to gain impetus in further strengthening our relations. Prime Minister met the President of Argentina Mauricio Macri and President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit at Hamburg on 8 July 2017. He also met President of Brazil Michel Temer on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in China in September 2017.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj met with her counterparts from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico on the

sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2017 and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Ms. Maria Angela Holguin, during her visit to India on 6-9 November 2017.

The 3rd India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers meeting and the Quartet Ministerial Meeting of CELAC led by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj were held on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2017.

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, Gen (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) visited Jamaica on 29-30 April 2017, Suriname on 28 April 2017 and held the 6th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) at Paramaribo. In Suriname, three MoUs, namely, Visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports; Work Plan of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture for 2017-2021; and, cooperation in the field of Indian Standards were signed.

Other ministerial visits from India to LAC region included a visit by Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Independent Charge (IC), along with a 12-member delegation to Buenos Aires from 16-17 April 2017. Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister for Women and Child Development to Argentina to attend the 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in Buenos Aires from 14-16 November 2017 and Uruguay on bilateral visit, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (IC) for Labour and Employment to Buenos Aires who also participated in the 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry (CIM), along with a Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) business delegation to Panama from 31 October – 2 November 2017 and Cuba from 28-30 October 2017 and Argentina to attend 11th Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Buenos Aires from 10-13 December 2017; Shri Kiren Rijju, Minister of State for Home Affairs visited Cancun during 22-26 May 2017 to attend the 5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and also held bilateral meetings. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia on the sidelines of UNGA in New York in September 2017.

There have been a number of incoming visits from the region to India including Finance Minister of Suriname Mr. Gillmore Hoefdraad, from 19-21 September 2017, the Jamaican Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ms Kamina

Johnson Smith from 9-12 October 2017; the Guatemalan Minister of Culture & Sports, Jose Luis Ches Urruela along with a twenty-five member ballet troupe from 19-27 November 2017; and the third Vice President & Minister of Public Security of Guyana, Khemraj Ramjattan on a private visit from 7-14 November 2017 to attend the 18th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World in Lucknow. A 4-member Parliamentary delegation of Cuba visited India from 26-29 March 2017.

India and LAC countries continued to support each other in international fora. In this context, it will not be out of place to mention that India received the valuable support of LAC countries for the election of Judge Dalveer Bhandari to the International Court of Justice.

Familiarization visit of senior journalists/editors from Latin America and Caribbean region was organized by XP Division from 2 - 7 October 2017 and was attended by twenty-seven participants from seventeen countries of the region.

Bringing closer the cultural ties of India with the region, ICCR sponsored Latin American Cultural Festival was held from 22-23 November 2017; Festival of India was celebrated in Brazil from 31 August - 9 September 2017.

Continued support of all countries in the LAC region was received to celebration the International Day of Yoga with large participations from local dignitaries and general public.

As part of the study tour, a group of training officers from National Defence College (NDC) visited Brazil 27 May – 3 June 2017. Separately, twenty-one officers of the Staff and Course members of the 30th Naval Higher Command Course at the Naval War College led by Rear Admiral Mr. Monty Khanna visited Brazil for a Training Course from 13-18 November 2017.

Five countries of LAC region, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Peru and Venezuela, have so far signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance, a joint initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and French President Mr. Francois Hollande.

## **United Nations and International Organizations & Legal and Treaties Division**

The tempo of India's engagement with the United Nations

system continued as in the last year. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation to the High Level opening segment of the 72nd UNGA in September 2017. India's country statement on the occasion drew attention of the international community to the serious threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security, the need to strengthen the international legal framework to combat terrorism including early finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), and to the urgent task of UN Security Council reforms that remained on the international agenda. High level exchanges with the United Nations system included an incoming visit by the President of the UN General Assembly, and participation in the 72nd session by a Non Official Indian delegation comprising a group of Indian Members of Parliament.

India continued with its multilateral engagements at the United Nations and international organisation on all issues of interest including climate change, sustainable development, human rights, and culture. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism under the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Oceans Conference, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development of ECOSOC, and the 23rd Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are among the major meetings participated by India during the period of the Report. At the United Nations Economic and Security Council (ECOSOC) HLPF, India presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India also accepted the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) during the period of the Report. It may also be mentioned that the city of Ahmedabad was inscribed on the list of World Heritage site of UNESCO and the Kumbh Mela was inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity in this period. Finally, India was elected to major UN bodies and international organisation including, inter alia, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Executive Board of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and UN Habitat Governing Council.

## Disarmament and International Security Affairs

India actively participated in various disarmament, arms control and international security related forums held during the year. A number of civil nuclear cooperation agreements entered into force, namely with Bangladesh, Japan and Vietnam.

As part of an active engagement with various export control regimes, India became the 42nd member of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

India chaired the Annual Meeting of the State Parties to the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC) as well as the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).

White Shipping Agreements were signed with a number of countries taking the tally to fifteen in order to enhance co-operation in Maritime Domain Awareness. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Cooperation was also signed with Myanmar. India successfully hosted an International Conference on the Conference on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in December 2017.

## International Solar Alliance

The Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will be held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. It may be recalled that the ISA became an international entity on 6 December 2017.

## Multilateral Economic Relations

**BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa]:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led India's delegation at the Ninth BRICS Summit on 4 & 5 September 2017 in Xiamen. The leaders held discussions on Economic & Finance Cooperation, Global Economic Governance, and International Peace and Security. The outcomes of the Summit included the Xiamen Declaration, in which strong sentiments were expressed by leaders on terrorism.

BRICS Leaders also held their customary informal Meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany on 7 July 2017. The Leaders held discussions on agenda of G20 meeting and also exchanged views on a wide range of global political, security, economic and global governance issues of importance and mutual concern.

**The Twelfth G20 Summit:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation to the Twelfth G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany on 7 & 8 July 2017. The agenda of the Summit included Global Growth and Trade, Sustainable Development, Climate and Energy, Partnership with Africa, Migration, and Health, Digitalisation, Women's Empowerment, and Employment. The G20 Leaders issued a Communiqué at the Summit. Special emphasis to addressing the global menace of terrorism was accorded at the Summit and a Leaders' Retreat on 'Fighting Terrorism' was held on 7 July 2017, wherein Hamburg G20 Leaders' Statement on Countering Terrorism was issued. The leaders called for elimination of terrorist safe-havens in every part of the world.

**IBSA (India, Brazil & South Africa):** During the year, two IBSA Foreign Ministers' meetings were held. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj participated in the customary IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the margins of 72nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 21 September 2017. The Ministers discussed various topics of mutual interest including global political situation, Global Economic and Financial Situation, Reform of Global Governance and Sustainable Development.

Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) participated in the 8th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting on 17 October 2017, in Durban, South Africa. Ministers exchanged views on Sustainable Development, Global Economy & Financial Situation and Reform of Global Governance, Blue Economy, IBSA's Future Agenda and on other issues of common interest. An agreement on the IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger was also signed on this occasion.

## SAARC & BIMSTEC

**The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a natural choice to fulfill India's key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East'. India is working with other member states to make BIMSTEC effective and result oriented organization to bring prosperity and development for the region. As per the 'Agenda of Action' decided upon during the Brazil Russia India China South-Africa (BRICS)-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit and BIMSTEC Leader's Retreat hosted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Goa in October 2016, significant progress has been achieved in 2017 in diverse areas of cooperation, including the key sectors of security, counter

terrorism and transnational crime, connectivity and trade, environment and disaster management, culture, tourism and traditional medicine. Several events were held to mark the 20th Anniversary of BIMSTEC in 2017, including the “Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage” organized by India on 8-10 December 2017 in New Delhi.

In **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**, an informal meeting of Council of Ministers was held on the sidelines of 72nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session in New York on 21 September 2017. India participated at official and technical level in other meetings of SAARC including those of its regional centres/specialized bodies and sectoral meetings. While participating in these meetings, India stressed on criticality of having an atmosphere free of terror and highlighted the need to move forward on key initiatives for meaningful regional cooperation to take place. India continued delivering on the unilateral initiatives that it offered at the 18th SAARC Summit viz. successful launch of South Asia Satellite on 5 May 2017; continued support for operation as well as construction of permanent campus of South Asian University; and setting up of a SAARC Disaster Management Centre (Interim Unit) at Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), Gandhinagar in May 2017.

## Development Cooperation

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India's development programs in various countries have expanded substantially, both in geographical reach and sectoral coverage. This inter-alia include grant assistance, Lines Of Credit (LOCs), technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a 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 (MEA) Affairs in January 2012 for efficient execution and monitoring of India's development projects through the stages of conceptualization, launch, implementation and commissioning.

Major developmental projects identified by the host governments as priority areas are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives in the areas of infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health and others. In addition, various projects

initiated for development and strengthening of cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are progressing satisfactorily. Beyond the neighbourhood, bilateral projects in archaeological conservation, information and computer technology (ICT) and Small & Medium enterprises have been undertaken in South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A key aspect of India's development assistance in the past few years has been the extension of Lines of Credits (LoCs) on concessional terms to other developing countries. Over the years, 244 LoCs aggregating to US\$ 24,253.13 million have been allocated to different countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 9,354.95 million has been allocated for African countries and US\$ 14,898.18 million for non-African countries. During the year under review, ten projects aggregating US\$ 233.41 million across seven countries have been completed.

During 2017-18, 10,918 civilian training slots were offered to 161 partner countries under the ITEC Programme. These capacity building courses also included specially designed courses and training programmes in a variety of disciplines, based on specific requests from partner countries. The ITEC programme also covered deputation of Indian experts abroad to share India's expertise and development experience in the areas chosen and requested by partner countries. In line with Digital India initiatives, the online ITEC portal facilitated the continued engagement with ITEC Alumni and provided a comprehensive interface for ITEC activities.

Humanitarian assistance was rendered by India to countries affected by natural disasters. Medical assistance has been provided to Mozambique and Myanmar. Humanitarian assistance in the form of food items was provided to Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

## Economic Diplomacy

The Economic Diplomacy (ED) Division as part of its efforts to give a focused direction to the economic diplomacy dimension of the country's foreign policy undertook a number of initiatives during financial year 2016-17. ED Division extends funding to the Missions /Posts to intensify their economic engagement with the countries of their accreditation under the “Market Expansion Activities”. 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 support specific trade and investment promotion activities by apex business chambers in India under the “Investment Promotion and Publicity Programme”.

## States

States Division (hereafter SD), established in October 2014, to foster closer links between Indian Missions and Posts abroad and states/union territories and the MEA. SD successfully endeavoured in promoting external outreach of states through provisional and regional cooperation in the domain of bilateral relations through the missions & posts of MEA abroad. SD facilitated the signing of various Sister City/Sister States & other MoUs between State/Union Territory Governments and foreign entities in the year 2017. In order to enhance external outreach of states/union territories, SD represented MEA at various events in the states, including global investor meets of states & significant cultural events of states that generate significant international exposure for the states of India. SD rendered assistance to foreigners in distress and eliminate any negative fallout from these events abroad. This had been one of the major activity areas of SD in this year. Apart from it, SD undertook a massive exercise to collate data, with complete details, about foreign prisoners lodged in jails of all the states and union territories of India which would be shared at bilateral interactions with concerned countries. SD facilitated visits/calls on state dignitaries of foreign Ambassadors/diplomats to various states and union territories. SD also facilitated visits of foreign delegations to various states and union territories in India, particularly with an eye on provincial & regional cooperation. SD initiated constructive steps for media campaigns of safe and legal migration with state governments to promote ‘Safe and Legal Migration’ to the Gulf countries and Malaysia’.

SD allocated funds to (a) Indian Missions/Posts abroad and (b) Branch Secretariats, Regional Passport Offices and Passport Offices to undertake 'state specific activities. SD also promoted external outreach of Cultural Events in the states and in that regard SD facilitated and supported numerous cultural events. SD also facilitated the bringing back of mortal remains of Indians who passed away in foreign countries by coordinating with the Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the

state Resident Commissions of various states/union territories. SD was guided by the principles of cooperative federalism & Diplomacy for Development in states in all these endeavours.

## CounterTerrorism

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 forms and manifestations and reiterated its commitment to combating the menace at a global level. India continued to hold structured consultations through the Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) with various partner countries. During the period April-November 2017, India held meetings of the JWG-CT with Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Japan, BRICS and EU.

## Global Cyber Issues

Increasing use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the social and economic development of nations has made cyber issues one of the significant subjects of diplomatic discussions around the world. In keeping with its profile the MEA upscaled its Global Cyber Issues Cell to create the new Cyber Diplomacy (CD) Division in the Ministry which has been entrusted with the responsibility of projection and safeguarding of GoI's interests on the subject in international fora.

In discharge of its responsibilities, the CD Division has been engaging in bilateral cyber dialogues with key countries for collaboration on cyber issues and in regional and multilateral fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), SCO, BRICS, United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE), Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to build consensus and support for a transparent, democratic and representative internet Governance. Currently, CD Division leads cyber policy dialogues with fifteen countries and one organization and is looking at expanding its footprint in South East Asia and its neighborhood.



## Boundary Cell

Boundary Cell provided in-house cartographic expertise, advice, and technical inputs to the concerned territorial divisions dealing with negotiations, regarding clarifications on land and maritime boundary. The Cell remained watchful of the depiction of India's international boundaries in foreign journals and atlases. Cases of incorrect depiction were taken up with the concerned governments, agencies or the publishers through Indian missions abroad for necessary corrective measures. Boundary Cell has been responsible for scrutinizing the depiction of India's external boundaries in foreign publications imported into the country and offered its advice to the concerned divisions within the MEA. The Cell maintained overall coordination among territorial divisions of the MEA, State Governments, Survey of India and border guarding forces for ongoing field work undertaken by various executive agencies for joint inspection, maintenance, repairs, relocation and construction of boundary pillars and maintenance of no man's land along India-Bhutan/Nepal/Bangladesh/Myanmar/Pakistan International Boundary. The Boundary Cell scrutinized seventy-four Open Series Maps (OSM) and restricted and secret Defence Series Maps (DSM) containing external boundaries of India and trans-frontier boundaries for their publication by Survey of India and Military Survey (Ministry of Defence). Boundary Cell is the repository of all strip maps, documents, and information pertaining to international borders. It assists in collection and digitization of available cartographic information pertaining to maritime boundary, exclusive economic zone and delineation of the continental shelf.

## Policy Planning and Research

The Policy Planning & Research Division continued to focus on expanding its activities in 2017-18. The work related to writing research and policy papers on various aspects of foreign policy was further expanded. The process of conducting institutional Policy Planning Dialogues with India's diplomatic partners were expanded as were interactions with Indian and foreign think tanks.

With an intention of making India a venue for major international conferences and to also promote dialogues between think-tanks in India and in other countries, a number of initiatives were advanced. Some of the notable events organised were the 2nd India-China Think Tank Forum in June 2017; the 2nd Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo in

August-September 2017; and the 2nd meeting of India-Russia Heads of Think Tanks in December 2017. The third edition of the Raisina Dialogue took place in January 2018 and the 3rd Gateway of India dialogue will be held in March 2018.

## Protocol

Protocol Division comprises a total of seven sections viz. Protocol I, Protocol II, Protocol III, Protocol (Hyderabad House), Protocol Special, Protocol (Hospitality and Accounts) and Government Hospitality Organisation (GHO).

In 2017, the Protocol division handled ninety-five incoming/outgoing visits at the levels of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister.

## Consular, Passport and Visa Services

In recent years, the issuance of passports has emerged as the most noticeable statutory and citizen service rendered by the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry has made many quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services. Indian Passports [together with other travel documents such as Identity Certificates (IC), Emergency Certificates (EC) for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates (PCC) and Line of Control Travel Permits in Jammu & Kashmir] are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through the Central Passport Organisation and its all India network of 37 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (only Diplomatic & Official Passports) and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 92 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 60 Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSKs) in association with Ministry of Communications, as extended arms of Passport Offices. For Indians living abroad, passports, Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards, EC and other miscellaneous consular services, apart from attestation of consular documents are being rendered by the 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

During 2017, the Ministry processed approximately 1.17 crore passport and passport related service applications compared to 98.4 lakhs in 2016 marking a growth of nearly 19%. The Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 1,17,34,020 passport and passport related service applications including Police Clearance Certificates, against which 1,15,82,367 passports and related documents were issued [inclusive of 2665 Diplomatic passports, 29022 Official

passports, 5111 Surrender Certificates (SC), 2078 Identity Certificates (IC) and 2568 Line of Control (LoC) applications]. 184 Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad issued approximately 15.13 lakh passports, Emergency Certificates and other passport related miscellaneous services. Thus, the Government of India, in total, issued 1.31 crore passport and other related services in the year 2017. Over 7.38 crore citizens held valid passports as on 31 December 2017. India, today is placed third behind China and the United States in terms of global issuance of passport.

The Ministry of External Affairs, in association with the Ministry of Communications, has taken an innovative initiative to open Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices in the country to be known as 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). The Ministry has announced the opening of 251 POPSKs. Out of these 60 POPSKs have become operational till 31 January 2018. Nearly 5 lakh passport applications have been processed at these POPSKs during 2017. With the addition of 251 POPSKs, the total number of PSKs including POPSKs that would be added by the present Government for the benefit of the citizens would be 267. The Government intends to open POPSK in the HPO in the country in such a manner that there is a Passport Seva Kendra available within a radius of 50 km of every HPO.

The Ministry integrated its four offices in Mumbai, namely, (i) Passport Office, (ii) Office of the Protector of Emigrants, (iii) Office of the Regional Director of ICCR, and (iv) Branch Secretariat into a single building – the "Videsh Bhavan" - for effective management of its engagement with the State Government of Maharashtra. The Passport Office at Thane was merged with the Passport Office at Mumbai.

The Ministry of External Affairs celebrated the completion of 50 years of the Passports Act 1967 which was enacted on 24th June, 1967. To mark the occasion, a Special Commemorative Stamp and First Day Cover were released by the Department of Posts during the Fifth Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers Conference, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on 22-23 June, 2017 at Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhavan, New Delhi.

The pre printed portion of the passport is already in Hindi and English languages. At present, the personal details of the applicant are printed in English language only. The Government has now decided to print personal details on passports in both Hindi and English languages.

In order for functional enhancement and simplification of procedures for realizing 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance', the Ministry introduced the following measures:

- Printing personal details on passports in both Hindi and English languages.
- Out of turn issuance of passports under 'Tatkaal Scheme'
- Out of turn issuance of fresh passport under normal scheme without paying any Tatkaal fees.
- Discount of ten percent in passport fee for fresh applications (and not for re-issue) to minors up to the age of 8 years and senior citizens (persons above the age of 60 years) with effect from 24 June, 2017.
- Inclusion of the name of step parents in the passport.
- Unregistered rent agreement has been prescribed as valid address proof for issuance of passport.
- Exemption to children below the age of 5 years and physically disabled persons without forelimbs from giving biometric details (10 fingerprints).

## Overseas Indian Affairs

The Government has brought about a transformational change in India's engagement with the Overseas Indian Community. The efforts are geared at strengthening our engagement and outreach with all segments of overseas Indians. The Government has accorded top most priority to their welfare and protection and the institutional framework for support and welfare of overseas Indians has been considerably strengthened. This has been done with an unparalleled focus keeping in the mind the issues and concerns of our migrant workers that are the most vulnerable segment of the Overseas Indian Community.

As part of Government's commitment to strengthen engagement with diaspora, among the major initiatives/programmes launched/hosted during 2017 are Videsh Sampark outreach programme, Know India Programme, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conferences, Scholarship Programme for diaspora children, Awareness Campaign on Safe and Legal Migration and merger of Ministry's scheme for distressed Indian women married to NRI spouses with Indian Community Welfare Fund. Besides, First Persons of Indian origin (PIO)-Parliamentary Conference is being hosted on 9 January 2018, 10th Regional PBD titled ASEAN-India PBD Convention on 6 & 7 January

2018 in Singapore and first round of Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz in early 2018.

The Overseas Indian Affairs Division-II deals with issues relating to engagement with Indian Diaspora. Among the major programmes/schemes handled by the Division are Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conferences, Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Know India Programme, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children, Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz, NRI marital disputes, promotion of cultural ties with diaspora, Students registration portal, Pratishtit Portal, grievances pertaining to diaspora, any other issues pertaining to diaspora and new initiatives taken from time to time by the Government.

As per the new format introduced in 2015, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is now held every alternate year. The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be held on 7 & 9 January 2019. However, during the intervening period, ten PBD Conferences are being held. In 2017, three PBD Conferences were held and the 4th one will be held in February, 2018. The themes of first three PBD Conferences were 'Giving Back to India : Opportunities and Challenges', 'Developing Cyber Capacity of India' and 'Engagement with younger members of Indian Diaspora'. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj chaired all the three PBD Conferences.

On the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the first Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)-Parliamentary Conference is being organised on 9 January 2018 at the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi. The sitting PIO Parliamentarians excluding Speakers of Parliament, Heads of State/Government and Ministers are being invited to the conference. Sitting PIO-Mayors have also been invited to participate in the Conference as special invitees. Separately, the 10th Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is being organised on 6 & 7 January 2018, which also coincides with the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-Indian Dialogue Relations.

In compliance with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's announcement at the inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra on 2 October 2016, the 2nd edition of Bharat ko Janiye (BKJ) Quiz is being organized with a targeted participation of 50,000 young overseas Indians. As per the new format, the first round of 2nd edition of BKJ Quiz is being organized by Missions/Posts abroad in early, 2018 and 2nd, 3rd and 4th rounds will be organized by the Ministry during 2018-19. The Winners of the 2nd edition of BKJ quiz will be receiving the medals during PBD Convention in 2019.

Besides, of six editions of Know India Programme (KIP) planned for 2017-18, three have been held and the 4th one is underway. Since its inception in 2004, forty-three KIPs have been organised with participation of 1,420 diaspora youth.

Under the Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children, 99 students were awarded scholarship during 2017-18 and since its inception in 2006-07 academic year, 869 Overseas diaspora students have benefitted from Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC).

The Ministry launched Awareness Campaign in Hindi and eight regional languages to sensitise and create awareness among potential migrant workers about safe and legal migration to foreign countries advising them avoid a) fraudulent agents and approach only agents registered with Ministry; b) obtain training specific to the job; and c) contact the Indian Embassy where they would be working.

Ministry's scheme to provide legal and financial assistance to distressed Indian women married to Non-Resident Indian (NRI) spouses has been merged with Indian Community Welfare Fund with effect from 1 September 2017 and made applicable to all overseas Indian Missions/Posts. The scheme was earlier confined to only thirteen countries. An Expert Committee was set up to deal with the issue, which has presented its Report to the Ministry. Some of the recommendations of the Expert Committee have been accepted and are under process for further action in the Ministries concerned.

With an aim to seek cooperation in addressing issues pertaining to welfare and protection of our citizens abroad and brief the State Government about Ministry's initiatives pertaining to engagement and welfare of the overseas Indian community, Ministry initiated Videsh Sampark outreach programme in 2017. Under the Videsh Sampark Series, Ministry has held three outreach Events in partnership with the State Governments of Telangana, and Kerala where EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Videsh Bhawan on 27 August 2017.

## Administration and Establishment

Administration division's constant endeavour is to optimize human resource utilization by managing the human capital of the Ministry both at Headquarters and 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. To this end, the Division oversees cadre management which involved aspects such as

recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations and career progression among others. In addition, the Division also calibrates its personnel policies through formulation, amendments and reforms of all the relevant GoI rules and regulations including for local employees for Indian missions and posts.

Establishment Division primarily handles the maintenance and upkeep of all office buildings and residential complexes of the Ministry; purchase and supply of office equipment, telecommunications, furniture and stationary; matters related to purchase and supply of special procurement items including representational crockery, cutlery and glassware, carpets, brass seals, national flags etc. as well as processing of official vehicles for Missions and Posts abroad; selection and purchase of Objects d'Art (Od'A) as well as matters relating to the Toshakhana; booking of conference rooms in the MEA offices for all types of official meetings; and allotment of office space and providing accommodation for employees of MEA.

## **Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office**

During the year, 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 and monthly RTI figures on public domain has been implemented. The system of online acceptance & disposal of RTI applications has been implemented in all 184 Missions/Posts abroad by aligning them with the RTI web portal.

## **E-Governance and Information Technology**

E-Governance and Information Technology (EG&IT) Division is taking steps to implement different components of Digital India Programme in the Ministry and all Missions/Posts abroad. Four Mission Mode Projects of e-Kranti (fourth pillar of Digital India Programme) namely e-Office, e-Procurement, Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration and Tracking System (IVFRT) and Passport Seva Projects (PSP), are presently operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. A number of e-governance and automation projects have been also undertaken by the MEA in

consonance with aim and objectives of digital India such as e-political clearance system, portal for scholarship programme for Diaspora children, Admission to Alumni ICCR scholarships programme, Know India Programme, Videsh Apps, ASEAN-India commemorative summit website etc. In addition to steering of e-governance projects, Ministry has also consistently pursued a focused approach to manage and mitigate ever growing challenges of cyber security.

## **Parliament and Coordination**

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, judiciary 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/overflight clearances of foreign military flights, visit of foreign naval ships etc., conversion of Student visa into Research visa in respect of foreign students studying in India and foreign scholars coming to India for field visits/ training/ inspection etc. in various Institutions. In all 4563 clearances were issued during the period April 2017– December 2017.

The Education Section of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination and admission of foreign students from fifty-seven friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, MD/MS, BE, B. Pharmacy and Diploma courses in Engineering in various institutions in India under Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Persecuted Minority Migrants from Bangladesh & Pakistan based in India are also offered seats under this scheme.

## External Publicity and Public Diplomacy

The External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division (XPD) is the key division in the Ministry handling media relations and public diplomacy. Throughout the year, the Division successfully showcased various flagship initiatives through its various activities. Besides effectively articulating India's position on key foreign policy & international affairs related issues, the Division facilitated 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 media coverage of numerous outgoing and incoming visits, in particular, the India-Japan Annual Summit in Gujarat and the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in Hyderabad were among the prominent activities effectively carried out by the Division. The Division also contributed to the rise of Ministry's public diplomacy profile by implementing several innovative initiatives and campaigns covering digital media, documentary films, books & publications, and social media campaigns. Already an acknowledged leader in social media, the Ministry touched two million followers on Facebook and more than 1.6 million followers on Twitter and introduced LinkedIn and "Ask the Spokesperson" initiative. The Ministry continues to expand the public outreach with a conscious effort to reach out to grassroots level through a blend of old and new initiatives. All these efforts have played a critical role in creating awareness about Government's foreign policy priorities & effective international engagement, leading to tangible outcomes and contributing to India's increasing global role and stature.

## Foreign Service Institute

During the year 2017-18, Foreign Service Institute (FSI) further aligned the Training Framework of the MEA, adopted in July 2013, with the recommendations of the National Training Policy of 2012. The aim, as before, was to enhance the relevance of training programmes to the functional requirements of the participants. The focus was on developing the competencies and skills of diplomats and their support staff for effective discharge of duties and functions, and to improve service delivery. In order to meet the rapidly changing requirements of a dynamic world order, the imperative of retraining officers and personnel at specified stages of their career has been accepted as a mandatory requirement.

Keeping this mandate in mind, not only did FSI review and revise the content as well as the methodology of training programmes for Officer Trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), it also introduced new levels of mid-career training for MEA officers and restructured the existing ones to make them more practical and useful. Training Programme for Group B of IFS and Non-Representational Grade Officials was also revamped and intensified by introducing new elements in the training.

Recent directives from the Government were incorporated in the training capsule. Inputs, feedback and suggestions were obtained in advance, from the designated participants with a view to making the training more relevant to their functional requirements.

In line with India's policy under the framework of South-South Cooperation, FSI also organized training programmes for foreign diplomats including Bangladesh, ASEAN, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

## Nalanda Division

Nalanda University was established by an Act of Parliament – The Nalanda University Act, 2010 – with the active support of participating countries of EAS to improve regional understanding and the appreciation of one another's heritage and history. The Nalanda University Act, 2010 declares that Nalanda University is an institution of national importance.

## Implementation of Official Language Policy & Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The MEA has a well-organised programme for propagation and promotion of Hindi abroad with the involvement of our Missions/Posts. The MEA also extends support to various Foreign Universities and to the Educational Institutions through Indian Missions abroad for Hindi related activities. The MEA organises World Hindi Conference every three years. The last World Hindi Conference was held at Bhopal, India in 2015. 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 MEA also coordinates work related to grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. Implementation of Official Language Policy of the GoI continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry.

## Indian Council for Cultural Relations

In 2017-18, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) undertook a wide range of activities to promote better understanding of India abroad.

As part of its academic and intellectual activities, ICCR offered 3452 scholarship slots for studying in India under its various scholarship schemes. An Orientation Programme for newly arrived scholars for the academic year 2017-18 was also organized on 18 October 2017.

Afghanistan-India Cultural Week Festival was organized from 29 November - 1 December 2017.

ICCR has 78 operational Chairs of Indian Studies covering languages and other aspects of India, in Universities abroad and also operates two chairs in India i.e. South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) chair and Nelson Mandela Chair.

ICCR organized four International conferences/ seminars and supported eleven Conferences and Seminars in India and abroad as well as organised a Virat Hindi Kavi Sammelan in various cities of UK.

Five busts and one statute of National leaders were sent to various countries.

ICCR's 36 full-fledged Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) and one sub-Centre abroad actively promoted India's soft power abroad through a wide range of activities, including dance, music, yoga, teaching of Hindi, talks and exhibitions.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Israel in July 2017 announced to set up an Indian Cultural Centre in Tel Aviv. The process to set up the Centre has been initiated.

Council deployed 18 India based teachers in different ICCs and 6 Resource Persons as Teachers of Indian Dance, Music and Yoga where ICCR does not have Cultural Centre.

Council is in the process of deploying 118 Teachers of Indian Culture (TIC) abroad in Indian Missions/Posts/Indian Cultural Centres.

ICCR facilitated the celebration of International Day of Yoga 2017 by deploying 33 Yoga teachers and 12 AYUSH Experts comprising of Yoga, Ayurveda, Sidhha and Unani etc.

ICCR sponsored 122 Indian cultural groups abroad including travel grants to 15 groups., which performed in about 82

countries and participated in various prestigious international festivals and events and also organised "Mini Festival - Colors of India" in China; "Ottawa 150 Celebrations", as part of Festival of India in Canada; and, "Namaste Russia – a Festival of Indian Culture" in Russia.

Council hosted 44 foreign groups in India to give performances including participation in ICCR's various prestigious festivals. Performances of 20 Indian groups were also organized. Afghanistan-India Cultural Week Festival was organized from 29 November - 1 December 2017.

Six international scholars joined different universities as ICCR Senior Research Fellows under its Fellowship Programme.

3rd Distinguished Indologist Award was conferred to Prof. Hiroshi Marui, Professor in Indian Philosophy Department, University of Tokyo, Japan by Hon'ble President of India in a special ceremony organized at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 27 November 2017.

ICCR sent seven exhibitions for display in various countries and also hosted 11 paintings/ photographic/Mask exhibitions in Delhi and Kolkata.

ICCR hosted visit of four dignitaries under Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP) and five Academicians under Academic Visitors Programme (AVP) as well as sponsored the visits of 35 academicians/scholars/experts from India to abroad under Outgoing Visitors Programme (OVP).

During the period around 260 gift items/ art objects were given to the officers of MEA who were deputed or Head of Missions/ Head of Posts, and to ICCR Officers deputed as Director/ Dy. Director at various Indian Cultural Centres abroad including the gift items presented to various Foreign dignitaries eminent person by President, ICCR, DG, ICCR and DDG's.

The Council provided grant of ₹ five lakhs to CGI, Shanghai for publication of Special coffee-table /E-book titled "Indians in Shanghai" - chronicling history of Indians in Shanghai and EURO 150 equivalent to ₹10,848 to Shri Vimlesh Kanti Verma for formatting of the text & preparing final CRC of the book of Indian Short Stories in Bulgarian language.

Translation of foreign books in Hindi, namely "Books of Words (Wisdom)" and "History of Lithuania" has been approved.

The Council organized workshop and various competitions during 'Hindi Pakhwada' in September 2017.

A Training Programme was organized for ICCR's Programme Officers and Consultants-cum-Regional Officers working at Headquarters and Regional Offices in India at Foreign Service Institute (FSI), New Delhi from 9-17 October 2017.

Nine schemes of ICCR were identified by the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission – Cabinet Secretariat as DBT applicable and the same were on boarded on DBT- Bharat Portal in May 2017. ICCR, as per guidelines of DBT Mission Office, is regularly uploading Monthly Progress Report (MPR), in respect of these

## Indian Council of World Affairs

The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, economic and security development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and Caribbean, and the wider global geo-strategic environments. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, Discussion Papers, Shodh Lekh (शोध लेख) which were published on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA continued the process of translating its academic outputs in Hindi which have been regularly posted on its website. In addition, since April 2017, the Council has published five books, and one Sapru House Paper. Efforts are under way to revamp the Council's website to make it more user friendly. ICWA has also opened its library for general public and membership rules have been eased. In lines with its mandate ICWA 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) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, 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 and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across intergovernmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

## Library and Archives

The MEA library besides performing the duties of a library also acts as a Resource and Information Centre for the use of officers and staff members of MEA at Headquarters (HQ) as well as Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The library currently functions at Patiala House and Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB). The Library at Patiala House has been renovated thoroughly with a provision of Virtual Reading Room for users /research scholars during the year.

Archives & Record Management Division of the MEA deals with all the matters related to archives and record management. Upgradation of Record Management Software (RMS) and replacement of existing software as well as old desktops, which are being used for accessing data through the RMS, is being undertaken by EG & IT Division. There is also a provision for scanning/digitization of records in the new software. The existing data may be transferred from old software to new software. The Division has also received two servers.

## Finance and Budget

To facilitate timely financial reporting and improved citizen services, Public Financial Management System (PFMS) has been implemented in the MEA from 1 April 2017. In the Ministry all the important modules have been successfully implemented. Training is being conducted regularly to familiarize the Officers and staffs of MEA with the interface of PFMS.

## India's Neighbours

### Afghanistan

The year saw further consolidation of strategic relationship between India and Afghanistan. The year saw several high level exchanges between the two sides and also bore witness to several key developments, these most notably included: the launch of air-freight corridor between India and Afghanistan in June, inauguration of the first phase of Chabahar port in Iran which will connect Afghanistan to India in December, commencement of Indian wheat supplies of 1,70,000 tonnes to

Afghanistan in late October via Chabahar port in Iran; unveiling of the 'New Development Partnership' which aims to utilize India's new assistance of US\$ 1 billion on developmental priorities of Afghanistan; and announcement of several new projects under the 'New Development Partnership', including the Shahtoot Dam & Drinking Water project for Kabul city, low-cost housing for the returning Afghan refugees, 116 'High Impact Community Development Projects' in thirty one out of thirty four provinces of Afghanistan.



*Prime Minister meets Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani,  
President of Afghanistan in New Delhi, 24 October 2017.*

### High Level Exchanges

The year saw several high level exchanges between the two countries. The level and frequency of these exchanges reflected the level of comfort and mutual trust and understanding between the two sides. These exchanges included visit of President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani in October 2017; visits of Chief Executive of Afghanistan Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in

September and November 2017; visit of Second Vice President of Afghanistan, Mr. Mohammad Sarwar Danish in December 2017, where he also met Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu; meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) meeting in September 2017, which was co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj and the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani; visit of Chief of Afghan Air Force Lt. Gen. Abdul Wahab Wardak in



July 2017; visit of Afghan Army Chief in December 2017. National Security Adviser of India, Dr. Ajit Doval also visited Kabul in October 2017.

### Strategic Partnership Council Meeting

The second meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council between India and Afghanistan, set up under the aegis of bilateral Strategic Partnership Agreement 2011, was held in New Delhi on 11 September 2017. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani co-chaired the meeting. The leaders

emphasized that the two nations enjoyed time-tested and friendly relationship and reiterated India's abiding support for a united, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, stable, prosperous and pluralistic Afghanistan. The Strategic Partnership Council discussed a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and shared understanding and convergence of views on them. The outcomes of the four Joint Working Groups in the areas of political and security issues; trade, commerce and investment; development cooperation; and human resource development, education and culture were reviewed and assessed positively.



*Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive of Afghanistan calls on Prime Minister in New Delhi, 28 September 2017.*

### Economic & Connectivity Cooperation

A dedicated Air Cargo Corridor commenced operations between India and Afghanistan in June 2017. By December 2017, over fifty flights had operated between Afghanistan and India ferrying over 1,500 tonnes of air cargo. The two sides are committed to expand the Air Freight Corridor to other cities of the two countries and also increase the frequency of flights.

At the request of the Government of Afghanistan the first batch of 1.7 lakh tonnes of wheat was dispatched from Kandla port in Gujarat on 29 October 2017. The first shipment was jointly flagged off by Foreign Ministers of India and Afghanistan

through video conference. The wheat shipment will be completed by early 2018 and all the wheat will be transported to Afghanistan via the Iranian port of Chabahar, from where it will enter Afghanistan at the Zaranj on the Iran-Afghanistan border.

India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show was organised in New Delhi in September 2017 to promote trade and investment ties between the two countries. The Show drew wide participation from hundreds of Indian and Afghan companies, businessmen and entrepreneurs. According to estimates, business and investment deals worth over US\$ 250 million were finalized at the Show. Next edition of the Show is planned to be held in Mumbai in 2018.



*External Affairs Minister meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Salahuddin Rabbani, in New Delhi, 11 September 2017.*

## Development Partnership

At the second meeting of Strategic Partnership Council between India and Afghanistan in September 2017, the 'New Development Partnership' between Afghanistan was unveiled to utilize the additional Indian developmental assistance commitment of US\$ 1 billion on developmental priorities of Afghanistan. India also agreed to implement some important new projects such as the Shahtoot Dam and Drinking water project for Kabul that would also facilitate irrigation, water supply for Charikar City, road connectivity to Band-e-Amir in Bamyan Province that would promote tourism, low cost housing for returning Afghan refugees in Nangarhar Province to promote their resettlement, a gypsum board manufacturing plant in Kabul to promote value added local industry and for import substitution, and a polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif.

In addition, 116 new High Impact Community Development Projects in thirty one provinces of Afghanistan was also announced. These will be in the areas of education, health, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, renewable energy, flood control, micro-hydro power, sports and administrative infrastructure.

## Capacity Building & Human Resource Development

India continued its capacity building and human resource development efforts in Afghanistan through its several ongoing

scholarship and training programmes, including the Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals run by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), various Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programmes, capacity building for Afghan bureaucrats and diplomats, etc. India also announced the launch of 500 scholarships for the next of kin of martyrs of Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) from next academic year, i.e. 2018-2019. India also continued its various programmes for training and capacity building of ANDSF, including a batch of twenty lady officers from Afghan Army and Afghan Air Force.

## Socio-Cultural Exchanges & People To People Contacts

India-Afghanistan culture week was jointly organised by India-Afghanistan Foundation and Indian Council for Cultural Relations in November-December 2017 in New Delhi. The event was organised with the view to promote socio-cultural ties between the two countries and help create greater contacts between the people of the two countries. The event was jointly inaugurated by the Ministers of Culture of the two countries and included sessions on history of cultural relations, arts and handicrafts exhibition, dress show, qawwali programme, traditional dance and music shows and a session on sharing of experiences by Indian and Afghan students. A large number of Afghan and Indian performers and artists participated at the event and the event drew wide participation and appreciation from general public.

## International Conferences On Afghanistan

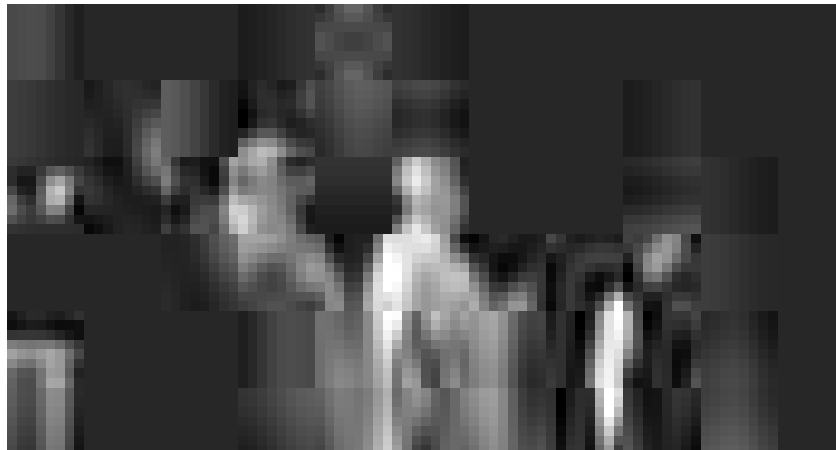
During 2017, India participated at several important international conferences on Afghanistan, where it lent its voice in support of improving the economic, political, security situation in Afghanistan and to promote Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled peace and reconciliation in the country. These included the meetings of the International Contact Group, 6+1, Kabul Process, Moscow Format, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) - Afghanistan Contact Group, Heart of Asia, among others. A brief description of some of these meetings is placed below:

- **Kabul Process:** The first meeting of the Kabul Process on peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan took place on 6 June 2017. The next meeting of the Kabul Process is planned to take place in February 2018.
- **SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting:** India participated at the meeting of the revived SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group in Moscow on 11 October 2017. This was the first meeting of the Group following the expansion of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in June 2017 with India becoming its full member. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West), Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam.
- **RECCA VII:** The 7th round of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA-VII) took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from 14-15 November 2017. The Indian delegation to the meeting was led by Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS) Shri M. J. Akbar. Indian side highlighted the work done by India for building better connectivity in Afghanistan and improving overall economic situation in that country.

- **Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process:** The Seventh Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process took place in Baku, Azerbaijan on 1 December 2017. The Indian delegation was led by MoS Shri M. J. Akbar. Indian side highlighted the work being done by India, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to improve the overall situation in Afghanistan. Indian side also highlighted the common concern of terrorism and state support to terrorism, including through the mention of terror groups mentioned in Amritsar Declaration of 2016 of Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process.

## Bangladesh

Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina paid a State visit to India from 7-10 April 2017. During the visit, Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh emphasized that relations between India and Bangladesh are based on fraternal ties and are reflective of an all-encompassing partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust and understanding that goes far beyond a strategic partnership. At that time, the two sides had signed thirty-five bilateral and business agreements in areas such as space, nuclear energy, IT and electronics, development cooperation, defence, cyber security, trade and commerce, connectivity, power, capacity building, media and information. The visit of EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj, to Dhaka in October 2017 for the Joint Consultative Commission Meeting gave further impetus to India's engagement with Bangladesh. During the visit, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj gifted memorabilia of the Liberation War of 1971 to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The memorabilia included military equipment utilized by the joint forces of India and Bangladesh during the Liberation War of 1971 as well as large number of artefacts and documents.



*Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina at a function to pay tribute to Indian Soldiers who fought in 1971 war, in New Delhi on 8 April 2017.*

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India, Shri Arun Jaitley, visited Bangladesh from 3-5 October 2017. During the visit, the Dollar Credit line agreement to operationalize the 3rd Line of Credit of US\$ 4.5 billion extended to Bangladesh by Government of India was signed. In addition to the Line of Credit, Government of India continued to extend grant assistance for infrastructure development projects in the social sector of Bangladesh.

On the multilateral front, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt Sumitra Mahajan, led an Indian Parliamentary delegation to Dhaka, once for the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) Conference in April and again for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in November 2017. Around eighty five Parliamentarians including Speakers of twenty five Indian states participated in the CPC.

From Bangladesh, important Ministerial-level visits to India included that of Finance Minister, Abul Maal Abdul Muhith in July 2017 for the South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC); State Minister of Youth and Sports, Biren Sikder from 17-20 September 2017 for the South Asian Youth Summit, 2017 in Odisha; Minister of Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman for the 3rd India International Science Festival in Chennai from 13-16 October 2017; Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology, Zunaid Ahmed Palak for Global Conference on Cyber Security in November 2017; Commerce Minister of

Bangladesh Tofail Ahmed for the Horasis Asia Meeting from 26-27 November 2017 in Kolkata; Minister for Railways Md Mozibur Hoque in November 2017; Civil Aviation Minister of Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon for the North East Development Summit from 21-22 November 2017 in Imphal; and Industries Minister of Bangladesh Amir Hossain Amu for the International Conference on SMEs (ICSME) from 30 November - 1 December 2017 in New Delhi.

## Development Cooperation

A third Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 4.5 billion and a defence LoC was extended to Bangladesh this year taking the amount extended under the LoCs to Bangladesh so far to US\$ 8 billion. Some of the projects identified for implementation under the LoCs include sectors such as railways, roads, bridges, inland waterways, power and energy, health, education, port construction, airports, telecommunications and shipping. Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh inaugurated the second Bhairab and Titas Rail Bridges built under the first LoC in November 2017.

As in the past, the year 2017 also saw a number of training programmes organized for Bangladeshi civil servants, police officers, narcotics department officials, border-guarding forces, defence establishments, nuclear scientists, teachers, Judicial officers and Fire Service officers etc apart from regular ITEC courses and ICCR scholarships.



*External Affairs Minister arrives in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22 October 2017.*

The two sides made concerted efforts to strengthen their diplomatic and consular presence in each other's country to further boost people-to-people contacts including the upgradation of the Bangladesh Visa Office in Agartala to an Assistant High Commission and establishment of an Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Guwahati and the decision to set up Assistant High Commissions of India in Khulna and Sylhet. The High Commission in Dhaka and the two Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong and Rajshahi together issued about fourteen lakh visas in 2017.

## Institutional Mechanisms

The year 2017 saw regular exchange of visits and meetings under various institutional mechanisms including security and defence, trade and commerce, border management, consular, power and energy, transport and connectivity, etc. for effective follow-up of decisions taken during high level visits. Some of them include the Joint Working Group on Security and Border Management, Power, Property Issues, Customs, Trade, Joint Rivers Commission, Joint Committee on Ganga Water Treaty, Director General (DG) level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Security Force (BSF), Consular Dialogue, Trans-Boundary Elephant Conservation Dialogue, Sub-group on Infrastructure, Joint Task Force on Fake Currency.

There have been regular exchanges of visits and meetings in the defence sector between India and Bangladesh. Chief of Army Staff of India visited Bangladesh in March 2017 and Bangladesh Army Chief visited India to review the Passing out Parade at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun in December 2017. Bangladesh Navy Chief visited India in August 2017 while Chief of Naval Staff of India visited Bangladesh in November 2017. Annual reciprocal visits of Muktiyodhas and War Veterans on the occasion of the Victory Day of Bangladesh in December 2017 were undertaken.

## Connectivity

The Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka bus service commenced operations from April 2017. The Bandhan Express between Kolkata and Khulna and end-to-end immigration and customs services for the existing Maitree Express (between Kolkata and Dhaka) at the International Rail Passenger Terminus at Kolkata were inaugurated in November 2017.

## Economic and Commercial

India-Bangladesh bilateral trade has grown steadily over the last few years. India's exports to Bangladesh in 2016-17 stood at US\$ 6820.11 million, and imports from Bangladesh during the same period were US\$ 701.68 million. In the five years (the period between financial year (FY) 2012-13 and FY 2016-17), total trade between the two countries has grown at a compounded annual growth rate of 11.45%. Bangladesh's exports to India in the period April-September 2017 stood at US\$ 260.07 million. India's exports to Bangladesh in the same period stood at US\$ 3452.44 billion. Petrapole (India) – Benapole (Bangladesh) Integrated Check Post/ Land Port became the first Land Port with 24x7 operations on the India-Bangladesh border from this year.

## Humanitarian Assistance

In order to meet the pressing relief needs of the displaced persons, Government of India supplied essential requirements to about 300,000 persons in Bangladesh under 'Operation Insaniyat' in September 2017.

## Bhutan

India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by deep mutual trust and understanding. The Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay visited Guwahati, India on 31 March, 2017 to attend the opening of the 'Namami Brahmaputra' river festival as the Guest of Honour. Finance Minister, Lyonpo Namgay Dorji, visited India on 3 April, 2017 to attend the SASEC Finance Ministers Meeting in New Delhi. On the sidelines, he held bilateral meeting with the Finance Minister of India, Shri Arun Jaitley.

The Minister of State of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste visited Bhutan from 19-21 April 2017 for attending the International Conference on Autism and Neuro-developmental Disorders.

Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat visited Bhutan from 27-30 April 2017. While on the visit, he received audiences with His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the 4th King of Bhutan and held meetings with the Chief Operations Officer of Royal Bhutan Army.



*The King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck and Crown Prince meeting the Prime Minister in New Delhi on 1 November 2017.*

Embassy of India, Thimphu organized a Mega Yoga Session to commemorate the 3rd International Day of Yoga at the Royal Institute of Management, Thimphu on 18 June 2017. Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

A three day workshop to understand the Committee Functioning System of Parliament and the role of Committee Secretaries was held at Paro, Bhutan from 24 - 26 July 2017. The Workshop was facilitated by five resource persons from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats of Parliament of Bhutan.

Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha led the Indian delegation to Thimphu to attend the first Asian Parliamentary Assembly's (APA) Standing Committee Meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs which was held from 31 August-1 September 2017.

Dr. S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary of India, visited Bhutan from 2-5 October 2017. During the visit, Foreign Secretary met Dasho Sonam Tshong, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan. Foreign Secretary had an audience with Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the 4th King of Bhutan and called on the Prime



*President meets Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan in New Delhi on 1 November 2017.*

Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, and the Foreign Minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Damcho Dorji. Foreign Secretary held discussions on the complete range of bilateral relations, including implementation of the ongoing Government of India assisted projects under Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan (FYP), priorities of Bhutan for the XIIth FYP, trade and economic ties, hydro-power cooperation, and people to people contacts. Both sides reviewed preparations for the celebrations of 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2018. The two sides also shared their perspective on regional and other issues of mutual interest.

The king, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck along with the Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck and Prince Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck visited India from 31 October - 3 November 2017 on the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The visit was the first visit of The Gyalsey to India.

The 7th India- Bhutan Small Development Project Committee Meeting of the 11th FYP was held on 6 November 2017 in Thimphu.

The 6th Annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks were held on 10 November 2017 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) , and the delegation from Bhutan was led by Dasho Sonam Tshong, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan. With Bhutan's 11th FYP (2013-2018) entering its final phase, the two sides noted with satisfaction the overall progress in the implementation of ongoing bilateral development projects in Bhutan. The Bhutanese side conveyed appreciation of the Royal Government of Bhutan for the invaluable support of the Government of India for their socio-economic development priorities, and for timely disbursements of funds for the ongoing projects. The two sides also initiated discussions on Government of India's assistance to the 12th FYP (2018-2023) of the Royal Government of Bhutan. Apart from the Plan Talks, one Project Monitoring Committee Meeting was held in April 2017 to review the progress of Project-Tied Assistance (PTA) projects.

The 12th round of India Bhutan Secretary Level Meeting on Border Management and Security was held in Thimphu from 13-14 November 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Shri B.R. Sharma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the delegation from Bhutan was led by Dasho Sonam Topgay, Secretary, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs.

A number of officials from Bhutan visited India for training programmes in prestigious training institutions of India as well

as under the ITEC programme. The prestigious Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarship were awarded to eight Bhutanese scholars for the year 2017-18, and the Ambassador's Scholarship was awarded to 866 Bhutanese students pursuing education in India on self-financing basis. The allocation of amount sanctioned for this scholarship has been increased from 2 Crores to 4 Crores per year with effect from (w. e. f) the year 2017-18.

#### **Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded By India With Other Countries During The Year 2017**

An Agreement between the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan and Reserve Bank of India on cross border supervision was signed in Thimphu on 13 April 2017, to establish an arrangement for sharing of supervisory information and enhancing co-operation in the area of banking supervision.

The new Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan has come into force w. e. f 29 July 2017.

The Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan is being celebrated in the year 2018. To mark the launch of the Golden jubilee celebrations, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, on 12 January 2018, jointly unveiled the 'Special logo' for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in New Delhi and Thimphu through video-conference. As part of the celebrations of the golden jubilee, besides high-level exchanges, both India and Bhutan have planned a series of special commemorative initiatives, cultural activities, exhibitions and seminars throughout the year.

## **China**

The bilateral relations between India and China have progressed under the overall context of Closer Developmental Partnership between the two countries.

There have been regular interactions between the two countries at the summit level. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited China from 3-5 September 2017 to participate in the 9th Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) Summit in Xiamen, and held bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping. The two leaders also met along the sidelines of the Heads of States Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Astana in June 2017, and at the BRICS leaders' informal gathering at Hamburg in July 2017.

On the political side, the two sides held their Foreign Office Consultations and the 10th round of the Working Mechanism

for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in Beijing on 16-17 November 2017 respectively. In the meeting of WMCC, both sides reviewed the situation in all sectors of India-China border and agreed that maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is an important prerequisite for sustained growth of bilateral relations and also exchanged views on further confidence building measures and strengthening of military-to-military contacts.

Meeting of the WMCC followed the disengagement of border personnel of India and China at the face-off site in the Doklam region on 28 August 2017. Both countries agreed that the peaceful resolution of the issue reflects the political maturity on both sides.

Foreign Minister of Mr. Wang Yi visited New Delhi to attend the 15th Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers Meeting on 11 December 2017 and on the sidelines held bilateral meeting with EAM and NSA and called on Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji. During their bilateral meeting, EAM and Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed to further strengthen mutual trust to develop a better understanding between the two sides.

The Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question – Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor

of India and Mr. Yang Jiechi, State Councillor and Member of Politburo of Communist Party of China's Central Committee – met in New Delhi on 22 December 2017 for the 20th round of Special Representatives' talks. The talks were positive and focused on bringing out the full potential of the Closer Developmental Partnership between the two countries. State Councillor Mr. Yang Jiechi also called on the Prime Minister.

Under the exchange programme between Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), a 6-member delegation led by Mr. Meng Xiangfeng, Deputy Director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee visited Mumbai and New Delhi from 3 to 7 January 2017. During his visit, Mr. Meng met with Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

On the economic side, the third meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade in Services was held on 18 September 2017 in Xiamen. The Second meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade Statistical Analysis was held on 20 November 2017 in New Delhi.



*Xi Jinping, President of China welcomes Prime Minister on arrival at International Conference Centre, Xiamen, China on 4 September 2017.*

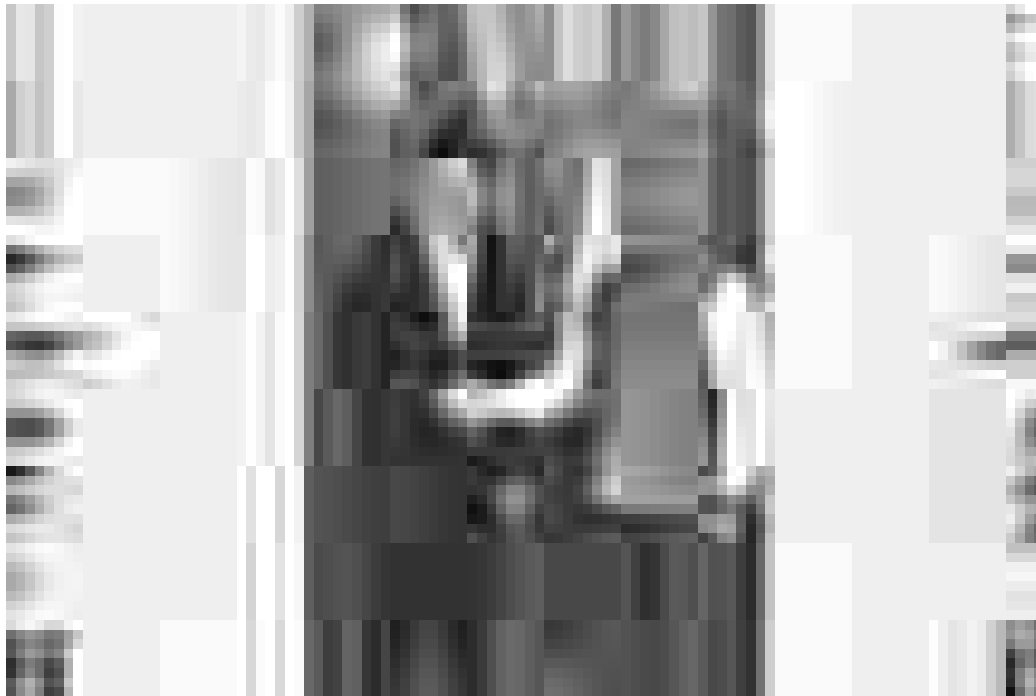


Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley met with Chinese Finance Minister Xiao Jie on 1 April 2017, in New Delhi on the sidelines of the Second Board of Governors Meeting of the New Development Bank (NDB). The meeting afforded an opportunity to the two Finance Ministers to exchange views on several issues related to cooperation between India and China in the financial and commercial fields.

In the defence field, a sixteen member delegation from the National Defence College visited China in May 2017. A delegation from the Western Theater Command of China visited India in March 2017.

As China took over the chairmanship of BRICS from 1 January 2017, BRICS related meetings held in China provided opportunity for interaction at ministerial and official levels. Among the Ministers who visited China to take part in BRICS related meetings were: Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) for the 1st Formal Meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers (18-19 June 2017); Minister for Human Resource

Development Shri Prakash Javadekar for the BRICS Meeting of Education Ministers (5 July); Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Dr. Mahesh Sharma for the 2nd BRICS Culture Ministers meeting (5-6 July 2017); Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri J.P. Nadda and Minister of State (Independent Charge (I/C)) for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) Shri Shripad Naik for the BRICS Health Ministers Meeting and High Level Meeting on Traditional Medicine (7 July 2017); Minister of State (I/C) for Labor and Employment Shri Bandaru Dattatreya for the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting (26-27 July 2017); Minister of State (I/C) for Telecommunication Shri Manoj Sinha for the BRICS Telecommunications Ministers meeting (28 July 2017); and Minister of State (I/C) for Commerce and Industry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman for the BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting (1 August). NSA Shri Ajit Doval visited China for the BRICS Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues from 27-28 July 2017.



*Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd) meets Meng Xiangfeng, Deputy Director of the General Office of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee, in New Delhi on 5 January 2018.*

Under SCO, the 31st meeting of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO- RATS) under the chairmanship of Vice Minister of Public Security of China Mr. Li Wei, was held in Beijing on 17 September 2017. Deputy National Security Adviser and

Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat Shri R.N. Ravi represented India at the 31st meeting Council of RATS. The meeting discussed topical issues of international and regional security as well as deepening of practical cooperation of SCO members in the fight against terrorism.

Minister of Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan, visited Beijing during 5-7 June 2017 to participate in the 8th Clean Energy Ministerial and 2nd Mission Innovation meetings.

Furthering interaction between the scholars and academics of the two sides, the 2nd India-China Think Tanks Forum was held in Beijing on 24 June 2017. A delegation led by Director-General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) Ambassador Nalin Surie visited China to participate in the Forum, which was organized by the ICWA and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The delegation consisted of distinguished Indian scholars and experts on regional, economic, and strategic issues from eleven institutions in India.

A 200-member Indian Youth Delegation led by Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel visited China in June 2017. A 200-member Chinese Youth Delegation led by Yin Dongmei of the All China Youth Federation visited India in November 2017.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ICCR and China Federation of Literary Art Circles (CFLAC) in August 2016, Colors of India Festival was organized in Beijing and Nanjing from 15-26 May 2017. The photo exhibition centered around the theme of “Buddhist Heritage of India” and included more than 90 photographs of prominent Buddhist sites and Monasteries from across India. The festival culminated with a gala performance of dance recital “Charishnu” choreographed by famous Bharatnatyam exponent Ms. Leela Samson showcasing richness of India’s dance, martial and percussion arts in a single presentation.

On the eve of International Yoga Day, Embassy of India, Beijing along with Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and Yogi Yoga, a major Chinese Yoga group organized a “Yoga at Great Wall” event on Juyongguan section of Great Wall on the morning of 20 June 2017. It was the first such Yoga event performed atop the Great Wall by a joint Indian and Chinese group of Yoga enthusiasts. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), who was visiting Beijing for BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting, participated in the event. This was followed by a Yoga event in Beijing Central Business District on 21 June 2017 where close to 1000 Indian and Chinese yoga enthusiast participated.

An exhibition titled “Gupta Sculptors and their Chinese parallels between 400-700 AD” which was inaugurated in September 2016 completed its display at the Palace Museum

Beijing, Fujian Museum of Zhejiang Museum. The exhibition is currently being displayed at Sichuan Museum from 1 October - 31 December 2017, after which the exhibits will return to National Museum, New Delhi.

## Kailash Manasarovar Yatra

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, in co-operation with state governments and other agencies, during June to September, every year. In 2017, a total of 4442 persons applied for the Yatra and 919 persons were selected to undertake the Yatra.

## Indian Ocean Region

In consonance with Prime Minister’s strategic vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR), there was a qualitative transformation in India’s approach to the Indian Ocean region during the period. India’s engagement with the member states of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) was further intensified as the Association commemorated in 2017 the 20th anniversary of its establishment. One of the major initiatives announced by India on the occasion was to establish an IORA Centre of Excellence (ICE) in one of the coastal cities of India to serve as a focal point and resource repository on Indian Ocean related issues that would be available on a digital platform to policy makers, academics and researchers in all IORA member states.

At the 17th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting in Durban, India announced a special contribution of US\$ 1,00,000 to the IORA Special Fund to support IORA activities pursued by the member states. India was also among the first signatories of the MoU among the IORA member states to promote small and medium enterprises. India also volunteered to participate in five of the Working Groups on identified priority areas to take forward the IORA Action Plan adopted at the 1st IORA Leaders Summit in Jakarta in March 2017.

One of the highlights of the period was the decision to implement the wide ranging initiatives announced by India at the previous meetings of the IORA Council of Ministers and Committee of Senior Officials. By the end of 2017, India had successfully implemented eleven of its announced initiatives. India hosted the 3rd Core Group Workshop on Water Science and Technology on 5 September 2017 in New Delhi, which was followed by a Conference on Water Security and Sustainability organized in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 6 September 2017. Two separate back to back

events were also organized in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi in September 2017. An IORA Workshop on Women Entrepreneurship and Skill Development was held on 27 September 2017, followed by an IORA Innovation Exposition on 28 - 29 September 2017.

One of the flagship initiatives of India was the Second IORA Meeting of Experts on Maritime Safety and Security that was organised in collaboration with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) on 7 - 8 November 2017 in New Delhi. The well-attended event got together experts from the IORA member states, who deliberated on the maritime security issues confronting the Indian Ocean region and highlighted the coordinated approach required to successfully manage these challenges.

A familiarization visit by media personnel and journalists from the IORA member states to India was also conducted from 12-17 November 2017 in implementation of an initiative announced by India at the 16th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting in Bali, Indonesia in October 2016.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) of India and IORA on 16 January 2017 in New Delhi with the objective to enable greater institutional cooperation between IORA member states and RIS. In fulfilment of another Indian commitment to IORA, a second MoU between the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP) of India and the Tehran based IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (IORA-RCSTT) was signed in Tehran for establishment of a Coordination Centre for Medicinal Plants in Lucknow.

## Maldives

Following its 'neighbourhood first' policy, India continued its close and friendly engagement with Maldives during the period. The relationship strengthened through exchange of high-level visits, extensive defence and security cooperation, institution and capacity building, assistance in health and education sectors and co-operation across a wide spectrum.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was joined in a live video conference by President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom for the launch of the South Asia Satellite along with other leaders from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries on 5 May 2017. Foreign Secretary Dr. S.

Jaishankar visited Maldives on 12 - 13 April 2017 and held wide ranging talks with the Maldivian leadership, including President Yameen and Foreign Minister Dr. Mohamed Asim. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited Maldives from 6 - 9 September 2017 to attend the 70th Session of World Health Organization's (WHO's) South East Asia Regional Committee. The Special Envoy of the President of Maldives and Foreign Minister Dr. Mohamed Asim visited New Delhi on 10-12 January 2017. During the visit, he was received by the Prime Minister and held discussions with the External Affairs Minister.

In a significant development, the first round of Consular Talks was held in New Delhi on 24 October 2017, co-chaired by Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa & Overseas Indian Affairs) from MEA and Bilateral Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Maldivian side.

Co-operation in defence and maritime security is the cornerstone of India's relations with Maldives. India continued its assistance in capacity and institution building in the defence sector, including through regular Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) surveillance by Indian Navy ships and aircrafts. The Chief of Defence Force of Maldives Maj Gen Ahmed Shiyam visited Goa from 31 October - 2 November 2017 to attend the Goa Maritime Conclave. The 2nd India- Maldives Joint Staff Talks were held in New Delhi from 23-25 May 2017. Indian Navy Marine Commandos (INMARCOS) and Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Marines interaction "Ekatha 2017" was held in April 2017. The 8th edition of Indian Army and MNDF exercise "EKUVERIN 2017" on the theme of counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operation was successfully conducted at Belagavi, Karnataka in December 2017.

The renovation of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, the largest hospital in Maldives, under Indian assistance was completed in 2017.

## Mauritius

Mauritius is a democratic island nation in the Western Indian Ocean that historically enjoys very close and friendly bilateral relations with India. During the period, both the countries intensified their development partnership with the implementation of a range of bilateral infrastructural projects such as Metro Express, ENT Hospital, Digital tablets for primary school children, new Supreme Court building, Social Housing for poor, Civil Services College and World Hindi Secretariat. The US\$ 353 million Special Economic Package

grant-in-aid announced by Government of India in 2016 for five such priority projects of Mauritius, moved to the implementation phase in 2017.

The relationship was enriched by frequent high level exchanges between the two countries that continued the ongoing dialogue and discussions on further deepening and diversification of bilateral ties for mutual benefit. Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth was on a State Visit to India from 26-28 May 2017. This was his first visit abroad as Prime Minister after assuming charge in January 2017. During the visit, he called on the President and Vice-President, had delegation level talks with Prime Minister, besides meeting External Affairs Minister, Home Minister, Minister of Finance & Defence, Minister of Railways, Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum & Natural Gas, and several other

leaders. He addressed a business event jointly organized by CII, FICCI and The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), besides attending a civic reception hosted by India Foundation. He was accompanied by his spouse, Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius and several senior officers of the Government of Mauritius, including the Cabinet Secretary and Finance Secretary. The visit saw the signing of four separate agreements/MoUs, including on Maritime Security, oceanographic cooperation, release of project-specific Line of Credit (LOC) of US\$ 500 million and setting up of a Civil Service College in Mauritius with assistance from government of India. Mauritius also signed and ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) framework agreement and deposited the ratification instrument during the visit.



*Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth calling on the Vice President, in New Delhi on 27 May 2017.*

Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Shri Kalraj Mishra visited Mauritius in May 2017 for the 2nd Joint Committee Meeting on MSME. A Parliamentary team led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt Sumitra Mahajan visited Mauritius in June 2017 and signed an MoU on Parliamentary Cooperation with Mauritius. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath and Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Giriraj Singh visited Mauritius in November 2017 for the 183rd Apravasi Divas celebrations hosted by the Government of Mauritius. The President of India

is expected to pay a visit to Mauritius from 11-13 March 2018 as the Chief Guest at the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of independence of Mauritius. The President of India visited Mauritius from 11-13 March 2018 as the Chief Guest at the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of independence of Mauritius.

Vice President of Mauritius Mr. Paramasivam Vyapoory visited India in April 2017 and January 2018. The Speaker of Mauritius National Assembly Santi Bai Hanoomanjee visited in November 2017. Other high level visits from Mauritius

included those by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities Ivan Collendavelloo in May 2017; Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation Yogida Sawmynaden in April and November 2017; Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo in September 2017; Minister of Health and Quality of Life Dr. Mohammad Anwar Husnoo in November 2017; Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security Mahen Kumar Seeruttan in May 2017; Minister of Youth and Sports Jean Christophe Stephen Toussaint in March 2017; Minister of Business Enterprise and Cooperatives S. Bholah in January and November 2017; and Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping Premdut Koonjoo in August 2017 and January 2018. A Parliamentary delegation from Mauritius comprising three members of the National Assembly, Kalyan Tarolah, Joseph Buisson Leopold and Patrice Kursley Armance, visited India from 29 July - 7 August 2017 to attend a familiarization visit organized by the Government of India for young Parliamentarians from African countries.

The special place that Mauritius carved for itself in India's foreign trade and investment policy matrix has been further buttressed in recent months. As a special exemption to Mauritius under the Overseas Citizen (OCI) scheme, the restriction on the number of preceding or succeeding generations was removed for eligible Mauritian applicants of Indian origin. The move brought OCI card and allied economic rights available to most Mauritian nationals. Following the resumption of negotiations on the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) in 2016 after a gap of ten years, three rounds of talks have been completed. The second round was held in New Delhi in September 2017 and the 3rd round in Port Louis in January 2018.

Defence and security cooperation between India and Mauritius was robust in 2017-18. India undertook the Service Life Extension Refit of Coast Guard Ship (CGS) Guardian under a special grant-in-aid. A Water Jet Fast Patrol Vessel CGS Valiant, built by Goa Shipyard Ltd under a Government of India LOC, was commissioned into the National Coast Guard of Mauritius in 16 August 2017. Indian Naval Ships INS Tarkash and INS Teg undertook surveillance and joint patrolling of the vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Mauritius. Hydrographic surveys of Mauritian waters were carried out by INS Sarvekshak during its visit in December-January 2018 (TBC). The 4th India-Mauritius Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism between was held in New Delhi in July 2017.

India has been contributing to the capacity building and training needs of Mauritius in several areas. Mauritius is one of

the largest beneficiaries of ITEC programme with more than 300 training slots utilized in 2017-18. It also availed around 100 ICCR scholarships and was beneficiary of other training programmes under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and the Pan Africa e-network project. Apart from sponsoring cultural troupes, ICCR sponsored a three-day Conference on the "Similarities in the thinking and approach of women around the world" with women writers of India, comprising twenty two prominent Hindi women writers, chaired by the Governor of Goa and prominent author Smt Mridula Sinha, in Mauritius from 1-4 September 2017.

India and Mauritius also displayed the spirit of close co-operation at various international fora supporting each other on issues of mutual interest like UNSC reforms, counter-terrorism, climate change, decolonisation etc. In June 2017, India extended its support to a resolution tabled by Mauritius in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on seeking advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965.

## Myanmar

India and Myanmar continued to maintain close and friendly neighbourly relations in 2017 rooted in their shared historical, cultural and ethnic ties. The bilateral relations were further strengthened by regular exchange of visits, including at the highest levels. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Myanmar from 5-7 September 2017. During the visit, eleven bilateral documents were signed and exchanged by the two sides in sectors such as health, culture, capacity building, maritime security and collaboration between key institutions. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit had followed that of President of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw to India in August 2016 that of the State Counsellor of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to India in October 2016.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, visited Myanmar in February 2017 with a view to enhance and expand regional cooperation in the Hydrocarbon sector in collaboration with Myanmar. From Myanmar, Commerce Minister, Dr. Than Myint, had visited India in June 2017 to attend the 6th India - Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting. The Myanmar Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Win Khaing, had also visited India from 17-20 December 2017 and had met with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Power of India besides visiting prominent installations pertaining to power and natural gas in India.



*Prime Minister inspecting the guard of honour, at the Ceremonial Reception, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar along with the President of Myanmar, Mr. U. Htin Kyaw, on 5 September 2017.*

### **Institutional mechanisms**

The 16th round of the India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations (FoCs) was held at Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar in May 2017. Outstanding bilateral issues pertaining to security and border management, connectivity, boundary, trade & Investment, Indian Line of Credit and development cooperation were reviewed during the FoC. Bilateral security related issues between India and Myanmar were discussed at the 21st National Level Meeting (NLM) between the Home

Secretaries of the two countries from 5-6 July 2017 at Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar. The biannual Regional Border Committee (RBC) meetings at Army commander level were held on 8-14 May 2017 at Kalay in Myanmar and thereafter again on 26-27 October 2017 at Mantripukhri in Myanmar. The 2nd Air Force to Air Force Staff talks were held from 18-20 January 2017, the 6th Navy to Navy Staff talks were held from 6-9 November 2017, the Second Army to Army Staff Talks were held from 5-6 January 2017 and the Second meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Group was organised in September 2017.



*Prime Minister meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar on 6 September 2017.*

## Economic and Commercial

Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$ 2,175.14 million in 2016-17. India is currently the fourth largest trading partner of Myanmar. In terms of investment, India holds the 9th position with an approved investment of US\$ 743.642 million as of November 2017. India's imports from Myanmar comprised of mainly agricultural and forest based products. India's exports were diverse, ranging from sugar and sugar based products, pharmaceuticals products, iron and steel products, electrical machinery, mineral oil, rubber and articles, plastics, etc. Border trade with Myanmar, estimated at US\$ 87.89 million (2016-17), took place through two land border crossing points - Moreh-Tamu in Manipur and Zowkhathar-Rhi in Mizoram. In September 2017, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. of India commenced supply of diesel to Myanmar across the land border.

## Development Cooperation

India remained committed to addressing Myanmar's developmental needs and aspirations. We continued with our efforts to further expand developmental assistance to Myanmar in the form of training, provision of expertise, lines of credit and/or grants-in-aid. A number of projects, including training centres in Myanmar were completed, and new projects were in the process of implementation. We also extended considerable

support towards building up Myanmar's human resources under its ITEC, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and ICCR scholarship schemes. At present, Myanmar nationals are being offered 500 ITEC scholarships every year.

Government of India extended assistance to Government of Myanmar in November 2017 through supply of family packs containing essential requirements for the immediate relief of internally displaced persons in Myanmar. In this regard, India and Myanmar also signed an MoU on Rakhine State Development Programme on 20 December 2017.

## Nepal

The momentum of high-level political exchanges continued during 2017-18. A number of bilateral mechanisms at a functional level met over the year covering issues such as economic cooperation, water resources, culture, power cooperation, defence & security, and connectivity projects.

Eminent Persons Group on Nepal-India Relations held its third, fourth and fifth meeting on 5 April 2017 (Kathmandu), 29-31 May 2017 (Dehradun) and 7-8 October 2017 (Kathmandu).

The 11th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) was held in Janakpur, Nepal from 16-21 April 2017. The meeting included site visits to the Kamala, Bagamati and Lal Bakaya rivers.



*Prime Minister, President and Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal at the Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on 18 April 2017.*

At the invitation of President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Retd. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, paid a State visit to India from 17-21 April 2017. This was the first State visit of the President of Nepal after assuming office of the President in October 2015. She was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Ms. Sita Devi Yadav, Members of

Parliament, Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, and other senior officials of the Government of Nepal.

India-Nepal Oversight Mechanism meetings met three times in Kathmandu on 12 April, 7 July and 8 November 2017 to review the progress of development cooperation projects. The meetings were co-chaired by Ambassador of India to Nepal and Foreign Secretary of Nepal.



*Prime Minister welcomes the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, at the Ceremonial Reception, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 24 August 2017.*

As per the request made by Government of Nepal for election related logistical assistance, eighty six vehicles were handed over to the Election Commission of Nepal on 1 May 2017.

Meeting on finalizing the operational modalities for implementation of road projects being undertaken under the third Government of India Line of Credit of US\$ 550 million to Nepal was held 9 May 2017. Another meeting on projects under US\$ 500 million Line of Credit was held on 11 September 2017 in Kathmandu.

Third International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Kathmandu

on 21 June 2017. Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba graced the occasion and released the 3rd edition of "Yoga Sandesh". In preparation for the 3rd International Day of Yoga, Yoga Camps were organized across Nepal in coordination with various Yoga Associations and India-Nepal Friendship Societies.

The sixth and seventh meetings of the India-Nepal Boundary Survey Officials Committee were held from 21-23 June 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal and from 13-15 September 2017 in Dehradun, India respectively.





*External Affairs Minister attends Working Session of the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu on 11 August 2017.*

The fourth meeting of the India-Nepal Boundary Working Group was held from 28-30 August 2017 in Dehradun. The Indian delegation was led by Surveyor General of India, Survey of India and the Nepalese delegation was led by Director General, Survey Department, Government of Nepal.

Study/familiarization visits to India were organized for fifteen-member delegation of senior journalists and editors from Nepal from 15-19 May 2017, eleven-member delegation of the Ministry of Forest & Soil Conservation of Government of Nepal from 10-14 July 2017 and a four-member delegation of Ministry of General Administration of Government of Nepal from 17-21 July 2017.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara visited India from 2-4 July 2017 at the invitation of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. Discussion focused on wide range of bilateral issues of mutual interest, including ongoing connectivity and development projects.

Director General of Assam Rifles, Lt Gen. Shokin Chauhan visited Nepal from 24-29 July 2017. During the visit, he called on the Chief of Army Staff of Nepal Gen. Rajendra Chhetri.

The 15th meeting of India-Nepal Joint Team of Experts (JTE) on Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme was held on 25-26 July 2017 in Kathmandu.

B. P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation held its 33rd Board Meeting on 28 July 2017 at Lumbini, Nepal. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador of India to Nepal, Manjeev Singh Puri and the then Ambassador of Nepal to India, Deep Kumar Upadhyay.

The 11th meeting of the India-Nepal Power Exchange Committee was held on 8 August 2017 in New Delhi to discuss issues relating to cross-border electricity trade like tariff rate, quantity and modality. The Indian side was headed by Member (PS), Central Electricity Authority and the Nepalese side was headed by Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority.

The meeting of Team of Experts for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project was held from 21-23 August 2017 at Kathmandu and from 5-6 September 2017 in New Delhi. The meeting was jointly chaired by Secretary, Water and Energy Commission of Nepal and Chairman, Central Water Commission of India.

Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba paid a State visit to India from 23-27 August 2017. He was accompanied by his spouse Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Minister for Finance Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal Jitendra Narayan Dev, Minister for Commerce Meen Bahadur Bishwakarma, Members of Legislature-Parliament of Nepal and other senior officials of the Government of Nepal. Two cross border transmission lines, viz. Kataiya (India)-Kusaha (Nepal) and

Raxaul (India)-Parwanipur (Nepal), were inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal on 24 August 2017. The following eight MoUs were signed during the visit: (i) MoU on Modalities for Utilization of India's Housing Grant Component to support Reconstruction of 50,000 Houses; (ii) MoU on Implementation of the Grant Component of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in the Education Sector in Nepal; (iii) MoU on Implementation of the Grant Component of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in Cultural Heritage Sector in Nepal; (iv) MoU on Implementation of the Grant Component of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in the Health Sector in Nepal; (v) Cooperation Agreement between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Nepal Bureau of Standards & Metrology; (vi) MoU on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical and Related Matters; (vii) MoU for construction of Mechi bridge and (viii) MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal.

The 12th Battalion level India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran XII was held in Saljhandi, Nepal from 3-16 September 2017.

The second meeting of the Joint Working Group on India-Nepal cross border rail links was held on 4 September 2017 in New Delhi, led by Executive Director, Ministry of Railways on the Indian side and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport on the Nepalese side. The fifth meeting of the Project Steering Committee for rail projects was held on 5 September 2017 in New Delhi, led by Joint Secretary, DPA-III, MEA on the Indian side and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport on the Nepalese side.

The 18th meeting of the Director-General (DG) level talks between India and Nepal on customs cooperation was held from 9-10 October 2017 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by DG, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Nepalese side was led by DG, Department of Customs.

ITEC Day & Maulana Azad Day were celebrated on 17 November 2017 in Kathmandu. The event was attended by ITEC alumnae as well as vice chancellors, registrars, senior professors of select universities of Nepal, Nepal University Grants Commission, senior officials of the Government of Nepal and principals of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)-affiliated schools in Nepal.

## Regional Cooperation

India also engages with Nepal at the sub-regional level within the framework of BBIN (Bhutan-Bangladesh-India-Nepal), BIMSTEC and SAARC.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Nepal, Mr Krishna Bahadur Mahara visited New Delhi to participate in South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Finance Ministers meeting held on 3 April 2017.

External Affairs Minister (EAM), Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Kathmandu on 10-11 August 2017 to attend the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. During the visit, EAM called on President of Nepal, Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba. EAM also participated in the India@70 event organized by the Embassy of India, Kathmandu on 11 August 2017 to celebrate 70 years of India's Independence. Prime Minister of Nepal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

A four-member delegation from Government of Nepal headed by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence participated at the Track 1.5 BIMSTEC Security Dialogue Forum held in New Delhi on 22 September 2017. The event was organized by the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses.

A youth delegation from Nepal participated in "South Asian Youth Summit 2017" held in Bhubaneswar from 17-20 September 2017.

A 19-member delegation from the Government of Nepal participated in the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise held in New Delhi from 10-13 October 2017.

Eminent Persons Group on Nepal-India Relations held its sixth meeting in Delhi on 11-12 January 2018.

Former Prime Minister and former Chief Justice of Nepal, Shri Khilraj Regmi paid a visit to India from 16-21 December 2017 to attend the 4th India Ideas Conclave at Goa.

## Pakistan

The lull in the relationship, bequeathed by events in 2016 i.e. terrorist attack on the Indian Air force Base in Pathankot, Pakistan's continued interference in the internal affairs of India, its glorification of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, Uri attack, illegal detention of an Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav and India's refusal to participate in the 19th SAARC Summit because of the lack of an atmosphere free of terror, continued throughout 2017.

Despite our persistent urging that Pakistan respect its January 2004 commitment of not allowing its soil or territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India, there was no let up in cross-border terrorism and infiltration into India. Unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC and International Boundary continued throughout the year. We conveyed our concerns over increased infiltration attempts from Pakistani side and supporting cover fire by Pakistan forces, including through diplomatic channels. It was conveyed in clear terms that India did not have an open door policy to terrorism and will take decisive and firm measures to counter cross-border terrorism and infiltration.

Humanitarian initiatives like release of fishermen and civil prisoners continued. Release of 370 Indian prisoners, including 363 fishermen, has been secured in 2017. 87 Pakistani prisoners including 31 fishermen were released by India. Repatriation of two Indian women in distress in Pakistan viz. Uzma and Bijoyeta Bannerjee was also ensured through diplomatic and legal means.

In Kulbhushan Jadhav's case, consular access under the norms of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations was asked for several times. On 10 April 2017, a Field General Court Martial awarded death sentence to Mr. Jadhav under the Pakistan Army Act. Pakistan Foreign Office was requested to provide immediate consular access to Mr. Jadhav, keeping in view the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1962. Concerned over his safety, the Government of India approached the International Court of Justice, The Hague against violation of Vienna Convention by Pakistan. The ICJ indicated provisional measures on May 18, 2017 and stayed the death sentence. The Pakistan government announced on 22 June 2017 that Kulbhushan Jadhav "has made a mercy petition" to the Pakistan Chief of Army Staff. In the ongoing proceedings at International Court of Justice at the Hague, India has filed a memorial. Pakistan submitted its counter-memorial on 13 December 2017. On 25 December 2017 after persistent efforts of the Government, a meeting between Kulbhushan Jadhav and his mother and wife was arranged in Islamabad. However, the Pakistani side conducted the meeting in an intimidating and hostile atmosphere with Pakistan media being allowed to harass Jadhav's mother and wife. Shri Jadhav was under considerable stress and his remarks to the family were tutored. The whole exercise lacked any credibility and this was conveyed to Pakistan side.

Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue continued. PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in his address to the UNGA Session in New York levelled baseless allegations against India on Kashmir and used this platform to glorify internationally-recognised terrorists. EAM in her address to the UNGA, effectively countered his efforts and pointed out that Pakistan has spurned the offer of peace extended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and in return continued cross-border terrorism.

The bilateral engagement was mostly confined to functional issues. Secretary-level talks on technical issues related to the Indus Water Treaty were held in Washington in August and September 2017. The talks were aimed at resolving difference on technical issues within the framework of the Indus Water Treaty. Also, the Indus Water Commissioners of the two countries met in Islamabad in March 2017 in the meeting of the Permanent Indus Water Commission. Channels of communication between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries were maintained. The 44th bi-annual DG-level meeting between Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers took place in Delhi in November 2017. At these meetings and exchanges, the Indian side firmly and strongly took up specific issues of concern, including incidents of unprovoked cross border firing, smuggling of narcotics, infiltration attempts, tunneling and defence construction activities. The issue of inadvertent crossing over by the border population and ways to facilitate their return on both the sides was also discussed. It was agreed that utmost caution and care should be exercised in dealing with the civilians.

The Agreement on Reducing the Risk of Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons was renewed (February, 2017) for a further period of five years. On 1 January 2018, India and Pakistan shared the lists of nuclear installations and facilities as well as civil prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody under the bilateral agreements of 1988 and 2008, respectively.

## Sri Lanka

India's relations with Sri Lanka witnessed all round progress during the period through regular exchange of visits, including at the highest levels. The relationship was marked by growing cooperation in the field of trade and investment, infrastructure development, education, culture, health, tourism, agriculture and defence. Strong economic ties underpinned the relationship, encompassing development partnership, Lines of Credit and joint ventures for development of bilateral economic projects in Sri Lanka. The two countries also continued to cooperate on various regional and global issues.



*Prime Minister inaugurating the Dickoya Hospital in Central Province, Sri Lanka on 12 May 2017.*

Prime Minister's visit to Sri Lanka on 11-12 May 2017 to participate in the International Vesak Day Celebrations as the Chief Guest was symbolic and demonstrated the high priority attached by Government of India to further cement the bonds of friendship between the two countries. During the visit, Prime Minister dedicated Dickoya Hospital to the people of Sri Lanka, addressed a gathering of Indian Origin Tamils (IOTs) and received blessings at the sacred Tooth Relic Temple in Kandy.

The two visits of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to India from 25-29 April 2017 and 21-24 November 2017 energized the bilateral relations. Bilateral economic relations reached a new high with the signing of an "MoU for Cooperation in Economic Projects" during the visit in April 2017. The visit in November followed the sustained interest on both sides to pursue a pragmatic approach to implementation of the decisions taken during the high-level interactions, particularly on the bilateral economic projects.

Mutually beneficial dialogue at various levels continued during the year. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Sri Lanka from 31 August-1 September 2017 to attend the 2nd Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo and held bilateral meetings with the Sri Lankan leadership. Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Sri Lanka from 2-7 October 2017 to attend the special Parliamentary Session in Celebration

of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Parliament of Sri Lanka and to attend the 8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians. Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & IT, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad visited Sri Lanka from 14-17 January 2018 to deliver the Lakshman Kadirgamar Memorial Lecture. Highlights of the visit was the signing of a bilateral MoU in IT Sector, inauguration of a pilot project of e-Office in Sri Lanka and launching of the National Knowledge Network in Sri Lanka. Former Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ravi Karunanayake visited India as his first overseas destination on 6 - 7 June 2017. The first overseas official visit of the new Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Tilak Marapana was also to India from 8-10 September 2017. The Foreign Minister travelled again to India from 10-15 January 2017 to participate in the 4th International Dharma Dhamma Conference in Rajgir, Bihar.

From the Sri Lankan side, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade, Mr. Malik Samarawickrama visited India on 18 & 19 April 2017; Minister of Petroleum, Mr. Chandima Weerakkody visited India on 18 - 19 April 2017; Minister of Housing and Construction, Mr. Sajith Premadasa visited India for ET Global Business Summit from 27-29 March 2017; Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure, Mr. Harin Fernando and Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Mr. Harsha de Silva

visited India for discussion with UIDAI Officials on 28 - 29 June 2017; Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen visited India for World Food India 2017 in New Delhi from 3-5 November 2017; and Minister of Finance &

Mass Media, Mr. Mangala Samaraweera visited India from 12-15 January 2018. These visits helped strengthen bilateral relations and foster a healthy exchange of views on issues of mutual interest.



*Prime Minister meets Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 23 November 2017.*

India continued to support Sri Lanka's developmental needs through development partnership projects, including training, capacity building programmes, provision of expertise, Lines of Credit (LoC) and grants. So far, close to US\$ 500 million have been provided as grants to Sri Lanka. There was significant progress in the implementation of developmental assistance projects. Construction of around 45,500 houses under the flagship Housing Project has been completed. The next phase, to construct 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces through an innovative community-driven approach is underway. During his visit to Sri Lanka in May 2017, Prime Minister announced 10,000 more houses for the plantation sector and country-wide extension of the free ambulance service, launched initially in two provinces of Sri Lanka in 2016.

India assisted Sri Lanka in a large number of Small Development Projects in areas of education, health, transport connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and training across the country under grant assistance. New buildings have been constructed for faculties of Agriculture and Engineering of Jaffna University, Killinochchi campus. The foundation stone for construction of a Tri-lingual National School in Polonnaruwa was laid in 2017. Memoranda of

Understandings for new Small Development Projects viz. construction of 153 houses in Sobitha Thero Village in Anuradhapura; upgradation of Vocational Training Centre in Hatton; upgradation of Saraswathy Central College in Pusselawa, Kandy; construction of 600 houses under Model Village Housing Project in 25 districts of Sri Lanka and Gram-Shakti Housing Project to construct 600 houses in Southern Province of Sri Lanka were signed during the period.

The India-Sri Lanka economic partnership was consolidated further through close cooperation in a range of joint ventures and projects, including close partnership in the area of infrastructure development and connectivity. A number of projects have been completed and new projects are under implementation. Sri Lanka is one of the major recipients of development credit given by the Government of India, with total commitment of around US\$ 2.63 billion. LoC Agreement of US\$ 318 million for procurement of railway rolling stock and upgradation of rail tracks was signed in June 2017. Contract agreements for procurement of rolling stock for US\$ 100.55 million and for procurement of 20 Container Carrier Wagons and 30 Fuel Tank Wagons for around US\$ 4.27 million were also signed in 2017. Another LoC Agreement of US\$

45.27 million was signed on 10 January 2018 in New Delhi to rehabilitate Kankesanthurai Harbour into a commercial port,

which is expected to ensure further economic integration between the two countries.



*External Affairs Minister meets Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka in Colombo on 1 September 2017.*

Bilateral economic and commercial ties further deepened during the period. Sri Lanka cemented its position as one of India's largest trading partners in the SAARC. Bilateral trade in 2016-17 amounted to US \$ 4.5 billion. Exports from India to Sri Lanka were US \$ 3.92 billion, while exports from Sri Lanka to India were US \$ 602.21 million (DGCI & S database). Negotiations on the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) continued, with the fourth round held in April 2017 (Delhi), fifth round in August 2017 (Colombo), sixth round in October 2017 (Delhi) and the seventh round in December 2017 (Colombo). Meeting of Joint Working Group on Power (Secretary-level) was held in Delhi on 23 & 24 August 2017. Two rounds of India-Sri Lanka-Japan Trilateral Joint Working Group Meeting on setting up of an LNG Terminal in Sri Lanka were held in Colombo in June and July 2017 respectively. In May 2017, President Sirisena joined other leaders from SAARC countries through video conferencing after the launch of the South Asia Satellite, gifted by India to SAARC countries.

India-Sri Lanka defence and security cooperation continued to expand during the period, particularly through regular exchange of visits of defence forces, staff talks, military training, joint exercises and ship visits. Indian Coast Guard Ship Varuna was gifted to Sri Lanka in October 2017 as a goodwill gesture.

The 5th India-Sri Lanka Annual Defence Dialogue at the level of Defence Secretaries was held in New Delhi on 9 January 2018.

Government of India responded promptly to Sri Lanka's request for assistance following devastating floods and landslides which led to loss of life and despatched immediate food supplies, water, inflatable boats, diving team and medical teams for flood relief efforts through Indian Navy Ships in May 2017. In supporting Sri Lanka's efforts to mitigate drought, India donated eight lorry mounted water bowsers as well as 100 metric tons of rice during early 2017.

India continued to support Sri Lanka in its efforts for achieving national reconciliation and constitutional reforms. The need for national reconciliation through a political settlement of the ethnic issue was reiterated by India at the highest level. India remained consistent in its position in favour of a negotiated political settlement, which is acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka and that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of society for a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity.

The period also witnessed further deepening of cultural relations and people to people contacts. Third International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated at the iconic Independence Square in Colombo in June 2017 with participation of

President of Sri Lanka, President Maithripala Sirisena and thousands of yoga enthusiasts. As a part of India@70 celebrations, a special performance by percussion maestro Pandit Bickram Ghosh and his fusion band Rhythmscape was organised in many cities of Sri Lanka. The lead event of India@70 was attended by President Maithripala Sirisena, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, and former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, amongst others, in Colombo on 15 August 2017. The Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo continued to offer classes in Indian music, dance, Hindi and Yoga. To further strengthen people-to-people ties, Prime Minister in his International Vesak Address on 12 May 2017 in Colombo announced that Air India will operate direct flights between Varanasi and Colombo from August 2017. The inaugural flight between Varanasi and Colombo was flagged off on 4 August 2017.

Education sector is another important area of cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. India extended support to build up human resource capacity in Sri Lanka by offering more than 700 scholarship slots to deserving Sri Lankan students, at the "A" level, undergraduate, postgraduate and at research levels. In addition, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scheme and the Colombo Plan, India offered around 370 slots to Sri Lankan nationals.

## Seychelles

India's bilateral engagement with Seychelles has evolved based on our shared ocean, common values and historical contacts. During the period, efforts were made to further deepen bilateral ties carrying forward the momentum achieved in 2015 when Prime Minister visited Seychelles followed by a Presidential visit from Seychelles to India.

Notable among the high level exchanges was the visit by a 12-member Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of Seychelles National Assembly Mr. Patrick Pillay to India in August 2017. During the visit, the delegation called on the President, Speaker and Prime Minister. The visiting Speaker delivered a keynote speech at Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on "Cohabitation Politics in Seychelles". Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly, Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan visited India from 07-12 January 2018. Besides attending the PIO-Parliamentarians' Conference on 9 January 2018, he called on the President, delivered an address at the ICWA on "Seychelles of my dreams", travelled to his ancestral village in Bihar and called on the Governor of Bihar at Patna. Earlier,

Minister of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning of Seychelles, Mr. Peter Larose, visited Gandhinagar to attend the 52nd Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank in May 2017.

Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan visited Seychelles from 8-13 January 2018 to attend the 24th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth. During the visit, she also addressed the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2018 organised by the Indian Association of Seychelles. Other visits included that by the Foreign Secretary to Seychelles in October 2017 for bilateral consultations.

Developmental assistance extended by India to Seychelles in 2017-18 covered development of infrastructure projects, technical assistance, supply of equipments, training and capacity building. India assisted Seychelles with SCR 45 million (US\$ 2.61 million approx) to build a Magistrate Court House under a special grant. Vehicles were also supplied to various agencies of the Government of Seychelles during the period.

India and Seychelles have an elaborate architecture of defence and security cooperation that had been consolidated over the years. The bilateral cooperation in this area ranged from maritime security, anti-piracy operations, air surveillance, to training and capacity building etc. During the period, INS Tir, INS Sujata, INS Sudharshani, Coast Guard Ship Sarathi, INS Suvarna, INS Shardul, INS Sunayna and INS Kochi visited Victoria. Refit of Seychelles Coast Guard Ship PS Topaz repair and maintenance of Seychelles Air Force Dornier Aircraft and funding of the Annual Maintenance Contract for the Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems were undertaken under India's grant assistance. These defence assets of Seychelles were gifted by India during the last decade. Seychelles continued to benefit from capacity building programmes conducted in India under ITEC and other Government of India schemes covering both civilian and defence fields. Over 1% of the Seychelles population (about 1000) forms part of ITEC alumni. India conducted a special programme on drug trafficking for the National Drug Enforcement Agency of Seychelles in September 2017.

The two countries continued to be supportive of each other's position in the international fora on issues related to climate change, counter-terrorism and other issues of global concern. In September 2017, Seychelles ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) initiative to become the founding member of the alliance.

## South-East Asia and Asia-Pacific

### Australia

India's relations with Australia entered into a more intensive phase due to regular exchange of high-level visits during the year. Australia is increasingly emerging as an important partner in different sectors including development of mineral resources, science and technology, education and skills and water resources management.

Recognising importance of relationship between India and Australia, Australia's Foreign Policy White Paper, released by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on 23 November 2017 sees India in the front rank of Australia's international partnerships.



*Prime Minister with Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, in New Delhi on 10 April 2017.*

A strong momentum was imparted with the State Visit of Prime Minister Turnbull to India from 9-12 April 2017. A number of agreements and Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) were signed during the visit including MoUs on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime, and Cooperation in the field of Environment, Climate & Wildlife. Coinciding with the visit, Education Minister of Australia Simon Birmingham led a large delegation of Australian Vice Chancellors, academics and educationists to India for collaboration in higher education, vocational training and skill development.

Australian Foreign Minister Ms. Julie Bishop visited India from 18-19 July 2017 for the Foreign Ministers Framework dialogue with External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj. She also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and had a meeting with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. During the visit, she signed a Framework Agreement for Australia to join the International Solar Alliance, led by Governments of India and France. The Australian Parliament duly ratified the Framework Agreement on 4 December 2017.

Promotion of trade and investment remained a strong area of focus. Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steven



Ciobo led a 170-member business delegation to India for the 2nd Australian Business Week in India (ABWI) from 28 August - 1 September 2017, with a focus on bilateral cooperation in mining, agribusiness, higher education, innovation and smart infrastructure. Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Keith Pitt led the mining equipment, technology and service related seminars, meetings and events at ABWI.

India along with Australia, US and Japan held Quadrilateral talks in November 2017 in Manila to pursue common interests in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region with a focus on cooperation based on converging vision and values for promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the area.

Australian Labor Party's Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Penny Wong visited India from 1-2 May 2017 to enhance bilateral relationship and convey Australia's bipartisan commitment to India's importance as a strategic partner.

Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Australia for Australia-India-Japan Trilateral Dialogue, held in Canberra from 28-29 April 2017. Other engagements of Foreign Secretary included separate bilateral discussions with Australia and Japan and interaction with Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney. The 4th India-Australia-Japan trilateral dialogue was held in Delhi on 13 December 2017. Foreign and Defence Secretaries of India also had a dialogue with their Australian counterparts on 12 December 2017.

Several Parliamentary delegations visited Australia during the year for strengthening ties between the Parliaments of both countries. A Parliamentary delegation consisting of Shri K V Thomas and Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Members of Parliament visited Australia to attend the 14th Biennial Australian Council of Public Accounts Committee's conference in Brisbane from 19 - 21 April 2017. A Parliamentary delegation consisting of Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi, Member of Parliament; Dr. Sitasaran Sharma, Speaker Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Shri Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Assembly, visited Australia to attend the mid-year Executive Committee meeting of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Darwin from 24-28 April 2017. More than a dozen official delegates from different Ministries in India covering wide-ranging areas including defence, mining, sport, and space cooperation visited Australia during the year.

Defence cooperation received a strong boost with AUSINDEX-17 from 13-19 June 2017. With an aim to enhance interoperability and cooperation between Indian and Australian Naval forces, three Indian Naval ships visited Fremantle, Australia to participate in AUSINDEX-17. A delegation led by Mr

Rajendra Singh, Director General, Indian Coast Guard visited Australia from 26-28 July 2017 for bilateral talks. Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, visited Australia from 19-23 September 2017 for bilateral talk on India-Australia defence cooperation. An Indian Naval delegation led by Vice Admiral Anil Chawla participated in the Sea Power Conference and International Maritime Exposition Pacific 2017 in Sydney from 2-5 October 2017. Bilateral Staff Talks between Air Forces, Armies and Navies of both the countries were held in August, October and November respectively. The 3rd India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 30 November 2017.

The Indian community in Australia continues to grow in size and importance. As per the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1.9% of Australian population (4,68,800) was recorded to be born in India. The number of Indian students continues to grow with approximately 66,000 students presently studying in Australian Universities and India is now regarded as one of the largest source of skilled migrants.

A group of six women officers of the Indian Navy commenced a mission to circumnavigate the globe in INSV Tarini and visited Australia and several other countries in the region in November-December 2017.

## Brunei Darussalam

Bilateral relations between India and Brunei Darussalam continued to be close and friendly. The year marks the 25th anniversary of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Dialogue Partnership. 2017 was also the 50th anniversary of ASEAN and the 50th anniversary of the ascension of His Majesty Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam to the throne. These landmark events further increased interactions between the two countries through a number of events in all areas including political, defence, cultural and sports. The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi had a meeting with the Sultan on 14 November 2017 in Manila on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.

Most prominent visit was by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Paduka Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusuf to New Delhi from 4-5 July 2017 to attend the 9th edition of the Delhi Dialogue. He also had a fruitful meeting with Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V K Singh (Retd.).

A nine-member youth delegation from Brunei attended the India-ASEAN Youth Summit in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from 13-19 August 2017 as part of a delegation of youth from all

ASEAN countries. A Youth Declaration was signed at the end of the visit, inter-alia affirming to foster peace and friendship between the ASEAN nations and India and to take forward the relationship in all its aspects.

Defence relations were given a boost with the visit of Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpurato Muara Port of Brunei from 25-28 November 2017.

A friendly football match was held between FC Goa and DPMM FC, on 24 November 2017 in Brunei Darussalam. The friendly match was the first event held under the MoU on Cooperation in Youth and Sports Affairs between India and Brunei Darussalam that was signed between the two countries in February 2016 during the visit of the then Vice-President of India.

To celebrate 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura visited Muara Port of Brunei from 25 - 28 November 2017. The crew of INS Satpura and the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) played a friendly football match.

## Cambodia

Bilateral relations with Cambodia progressed in various fields including economic, cultural, people-to-people contact, capacity building and developmental projects. A delegation from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat visited Cambodia in June 2017 within the framework of a MoU signed between Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Cambodian Senate in September 2016 to encourage parliamentary exchanges.

Indian assistance to Cambodia continued in the field of water resources development, electric transmission line, restoration and conservation of temples and capacity building. The project for supply and installation of 1500 Afridev Hand Pumps for augmentation of rural water supply in Cambodia was launched on 20 April 2017. Government of India has extended financial support of around US\$ 12 million for this project with the objective to provide safe drinking water to the target communities. The work on third phase of restoration project of Ta Prohm temple with a cost of US\$ 4.5 million is under progress by the Archeological Survey of India.

Quick Impact Project (QIP) Scheme, which was launched under Mekong Ganga Cooperation initiative, progressed very well in Cambodia. The QIP scheme has received overwhelming response from the various line Ministries of Royal Government of Cambodia and created a distinct and visible impact among the beneficiaries. So far, ten such projects have been successfully completed during the last two years and this year another five projects are being launched with Indian grant

assistance of US\$ 50,000 for each project. The cooperation in the field of education is continuing with the ongoing Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training and scholarship programmes through which more than 1,400 Cambodians have been benefited so far.

As part of commemorative activities of 25th anniversary India-ASEAN relationship, a strong youth delegation from Cambodia participated in India ASEAN Youth Summit in Bhopal in August 2017. Subsequently, a Cambodian music band and a Cambodian visual artist participated in India-ASEAN Music Festival and India-ASEAN Artists Camp in October 2017. This was followed by the goodwill visit of Indian Naval Ship INS Kadmatt to Sihanoukville Port in November 2017.

India-Cambodia cultural bonds continued to strengthen this year with participation of a Cambodian cultural troupe to the 4th edition of International Folk Dance and Music Festival in New Delhi in October 2017. Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA) and APSARA National Authority of Cambodia signed an MoU on 22 June 2017 for the enhancement of cooperation in heritage conservation and documentation.

Bilateral commercial relations continued to grow during the period and Cambodia has agreed to host the next edition of India Cambodia Laos Myanmar Vietnam (CLMV) Business Conclave in March 2018. This year several business delegations from Cambodia participated in various business events in India such as Textile India 2017, Global Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Business Summit, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Higher Education Summit, Regional Conference on Consumer Protection, Global Entrepreneurship Summit etc.

## Indonesia

With the visit of Indonesian President to India in December 2016, the bilateral relations with Indonesia took a steep upward trajectory. The year 2017 witnessed many high-level political engagements that have helped in reinvigorating our relationship and has provided the necessary momentum to the bilateral relations. The first Energy Forum between India and Indonesia was spearheaded by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines and Ignasius Jonan, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, of the Republic of Indonesia on 20 April 2017. The 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) on Oil and Gas; 4th Joint Working Group on Coal; and 1st Joint Working Group on New and Renewable Energy were also held simultaneously. A 21-member Indonesian delegation visited

India on 02-07 May 2017 to follow up on the action points agreed upon during the Energy Forum.

The 2nd India-Indonesia Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum was held in New Delhi on 25 September 2017.

The 1st India-Australia-Indonesia dialogue was held in Jakarta on 27 November 2017 at the level of Director General/Joint Secretary. Issues of common interest, in the fields of maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, were discussed. Foreign Office Consultations at the level of Secretary were held in New Delhi on 15 December 2017, during which entire gamut of bilateral relations and situation in the region, including Indo-Pacific, were reviewed.

The 4th JWG on Agriculture was held in Jakarta on 17 & 18 April 2017. Both sides agreed to act on the Matrix of Work Plan. The 4th Joint Committee Meeting on Outer Space between ISRO and LAPAN (Indonesian Space Agency) was held in Bengaluru on 14 & 15 November 2017. The issues relating to capacity building and of finalization of Agreements were discussed.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar visited Jakarta to participate in 'Second IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) Ministerial Blue Economy Conference: Financing Blue Economy' held in Jakarta from 8-10 May 2017.

An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Smt Sumitra Mahajan visited Bali to participate in World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development on 5-7 September 2017.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi in a pull aside meeting on 20 September 2017 on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister of India met her Indonesian counterpart General Ryamizard Ryacudu during ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting-Plus (ADMM+) which was held in Philippines on 24 October 2017. They discussed bilateral issues and the proposed Biennial Defence Ministers Dialogue led by both Defence Ministers.

With a bilateral trade of US\$ 17 billion in 2016-17, Indonesia is the largest trading destination for India in the ASEAN region. India also has cumulative investments of US\$ 15 billion in Indonesia.

Connectivity between the two countries was given a fillip with

Air Asia X Indonesia starting its daily service on Bali-Mumbai-Bali sector from 19 May 2017. Air Asia announced operation of flight on Bali-Kolkata-Bali sector on 17 August 2017. Batik Air launched flights from Medan to Chennai via Kuala Lumpur in 27 August 2017.

## Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR)

The year saw a continued upward trend in bilateral relations with Lao PDR. Infrastructure projects in areas of irrigation systems, 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 scholarships given to Lao students and technical personnel for undergoing training programmes and regular courses of study in India under various schemes. Several events took place during the year to commemorate twenty five years of India-ASEAN partnership.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur and Shri Chowna Mein, Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh with their respective delegations visited Laos from 6-8 August 2017, to participate in events commemorating the 25th Anniversary of India-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership. The Manipur Chief Minister and Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister met Professor (Dr.) Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry & Commerce, Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Minister in Prime Minister's Office and Kikeo Chanthaboury, Vice Minister of Planning & Investment and discussed various areas of cooperation in investment, trade, culture and connectivity.

A ten members Lao youth delegation participated in the India-ASEAN Youth Summit in Bhopal from August 14-19 2017. KanhaSikounnavong visited India for ASEAN-India Artists' Camp in Udaipur from 20-29 September 2017. A six members Lao band participated in ASEAN-India Music Festival in New Delhi from 4-8 October 2017.

## Malaysia

The strategic partnership, established between the two countries in October 2010 and the traditionally close relations, were given a boost with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Malaysia in November 2015. The relations have been elevated to a higher level with the State Visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak to India on 30 March – 4 April 2017. The visit coincided with the 60th

anniversary of the establishment of India-Malaysia diplomatic relations. Strong bonds of friendship forged through shared historical, cultural and social ties between the two countries and their peoples have been reinforced by the frequent exchange of

high level visits. The visit resulted in agreements covering areas of Air Services, proposed development of a urea plant in Malaysia, sports, entrepreneurship development, mutual recognition of education qualifications, technology development in field of palm oil, and development of 4th

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*Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia in Chennai on his visit to India 30 March 2017.*

Other prominent visits included Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of Naval Staff from 11-15 April 2017; Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, AVSM, Vice Chief of Naval Staff and ADG VSR Murthy; Indian Coast Guard to Langkawi to attend LIMA 2017 from 21-25 March 2017; and Lt. Gen. V G Khandare, Director General (DG) Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) from 26 February- 2 March 2017.

The 25th anniversary celebrations of India-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership were kicked off in a grand manner on 24 May 2017 in Kuala Lumpur by the High Commission of India and ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur with the organisation of the flagship business event, the ASEAN-India Biztech Expo and Conference.

On 5 May 2017, High Commission exchanged documents with the University Tunku Abdul Raham (UTAR) relating to an MoU between UTAR and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Studies (CCRAS) under the Ministry of Ayurveda Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) India, for setting up an Ayurveda Academic Chair at UTAR. The Chair will assist the UTAR to develop the syllabus for a degree faculty in Ayurveda besides undertaking related academic and research activities.

## New Zealand

India's relations with New Zealand continued to deepen and expand in various fields such as economic, scientific, cultural, people-to-people contact and coordination on regional and issues of global importance. Sustained high level contacts led to an increasingly multifaceted profile of bilateral engagement as also to a growing level of coordination at regional and multilateral forums.

Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) visited New Zealand on 7-9 June 2017 and held discussions with the then Prime Minister Bill English on a wide range of issues. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) also held a meeting with the Leader of Opposition Andrew Little and several parliamentarians. High level delegations from various states including Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Agriculture Minister of Haryana Government, and Speakers of Haryana, Manipur, Sikkim and Assam Legislative Assembly visited New Zealand.

The 6th round of Economic Dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and the New Zealand Treasury was held in New Zealand on 20 & 21 July 2017. The 1st India-New Zealand Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Delhi on 27 November 2017 which was led by Additional Secretary (Administration) from Indian side and Paul Ash, Director, National Cyber Policy Office from New Zealand side.



*Prime Minister meets Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand in Manila on 14 November 2017.*

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the newly elected Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit (EAS) on 14 November 2017 in Manila. Both leaders discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in different fields and also extended invitation to visit each other's country. Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 5 December 2017 during which the entire gamut of bilateral relations and prospective areas of cooperation was discussed.

## **Philippines**

The year 2017 was marked by unprecedented high level exchanges to the Philippines culminating in the visit of Prime Minister to the Philippines from 12-14 November 2017 to attend the 31st ASEAN and EAS Summits in Manila. During his visit, Prime Minister had extensive engagements including attending the gala dinner and the opening ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, the EAS, RCEP and India-ASEAN Summit.



*Prime Minister meeting the President of Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, in Manila, Philippines on 13 November 2017.*

Apart from the multilateral engagements, Prime Minister had several bilateral engagements which included a meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte followed by signing of five MoUs. The MoUs signed during the visit included MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics cooperation, MoU between the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines, MoU on Cooperation in Agriculture and Related fields, MoU on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises between National Small Industries Corporation and Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development, and MoU between Indian Council of Cultural Relations and University of Philippines on setting up a Chair of Indian Studies in the Asian Center of University of the Philippines. The visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Philippines has reinvigorated the bilateral relationship and the forthcoming visit of President Duterte to India for the India ASEAN Special Commemorative Summit and for Republic Day celebrations in January 2018, is further expected to add synergy to the bilateral relationship.

As part of his other bilateral engagements, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) where he inaugurated the Resilient Rice Field Laboratory dedicated to doubling farmers' incomes in India through the development of flood tolerant rice varieties and gifted two varieties of hybrid seeds. He visited the Mahaveer Philippines Foundation Inc. (MPFI), an NGO dealing with artificial prosthetics (Jaipur foot) where he interacted with 150 amputees. The Government of India has announced a grant of assistance of US\$ 2,00,000 to MPFI for upgradation of its equipment as well as free distribution to 250 needy Filipino beneficiaries. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also engaged the business community by delivering the key note address at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) where he dwelt at length on how the reforms being carried out are transforming India. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi rounded off his bilateral engagement with an address to the Indian Diaspora which was appreciated by 1200 strong Indian community gathered for the occasion.

Philippines was chair of ASEAN in 2017 and saw many ministerial visits during the year. Defence Minister, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Clark, Pampanga for the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meet (ADMM Plus) from 23-25 October 2017. Commerce and Industry Minister, Suresh Prabhu, visited Manila from 8-12 September 2017 for the 49th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting. On the sidelines, he had bilateral meetings with Philippines, Australia, Japan, China and South

Korea. Minister of State, Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) visited Manila from 6-9 August 2017 to attend the ASEAN India/7th East Asia Summit/24th ASEAN Regional Forum/10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation meeting. On the sidelines, he had a fruitful bilateral meeting with his counterpart from Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste besides pull asides with Malaysia and Laos. Shri Ganesh Singh, Member of Parliament (MP) from Lok Sabha, attended the 38th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly from 15-20 September 2017. Cabinet Secretary, Shri P.K. Sinha visited Manila in September 2017 to attend the Advisory Council meeting of the Asian Development Bank.

India announced an immediate relief assistance of US\$ 5,00,000 on 11 July 2017 for the relief and rehabilitation efforts underway in the city of Marawi which had come under siege on 23 May 2017 after armed terrorists belonging to the Maute group with allegiance to ISIS group took over the city. The relief assistance followed a telephone conversation between EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj with her counterpart Alan Peter Cayetano, Foreign Secretary, where she expressed her deepest sympathies and condolences over the loss of life and property in Marawi city and expressed solidarity with the people of Philippines against terrorism.

Bilateral trade continued to be steady at US\$ 1.981 billion in 2016-17 with balance of trade in India's favour.

Defence cooperation continued to be strengthened with the visit of a frigate INS Satpura & a corvette INS Kadmat from 3-6 October 2017. During her visit to the Philippines for the ADMM+ in October 2017, Defence Minister, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman met with her counterpart, Delfin Lorenzana and discussed ways to strengthen defence cooperation. With regard to Defence Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) slots, nine army/navy personnel have availed different courses since April 2017.

As part of celebrating the twenty five years of India-ASEAN partnership, a ten member youth delegation from the Philippines attended the India-ASEAN Youth Summit in Bhopal in August, 2017; Philippine artistes participated in the ASEAN-India Artists camp in September followed by a Philippine band in ASEAN India Music festival from 6-8 October, 2017. In addition, two journalists were sent to India as part of India-ASEAN media exchange program. A twenty five member Youth delegation from the Philippines is also expected to participate in the India-ASEAN youth exchange programme as well as for the India-ASEAN Youth awards. To

commemorate the twenty five years of ASEAN-India partnership, the ASEAN-India forum was held in Manila on 22 November 2017 which was organised by Research & Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS) and New Era University.

## Thailand

India's relationship with Thailand continued to deepen and strengthened during the year with the exchange of high-level visits and enhanced interactions in the areas of trade, investment, defence and security. This year (2017) both

countries celebrated 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

PM Narendra Modi met Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on the sidelines of the 9th Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Summit in Xiamen, China on 4 September 2017.

MoS Shri M. J. Akbar visited Bangkok from 26-27 October 2017 for attending the royal cremation ceremonies of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 26 October 2017. He was received and seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Chutima Bunyaphatsorn.



*External Affairs Minister meets Don Pramudwinai, Foreign Minister of Thailand in Bangkok on 4 January 2018.*

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited India with a group of around 100 staff, instructors and cadets of the Chulachomkhalo Royal Military Academy from 17-18 July 2017.

Virasakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs led the Thai delegation to the 9th edition of Delhi Dialogue, held in New Delhi from 4-5 July 2017.

Smt. Nirjala Sitharaman, then Commerce & Industry Minister of India visited Thailand to attend the ASEAN-India Expo and Forum, organised by Thailand from 2-5 August 2017 to mark the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India relations. Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha presided over the event. From India, forty eight companies from various sectors participated in the Expo.

MoS for Food Processing and Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti visited Bangkok from 23-26 August 2017 for a road show to promote 'World Food India' in Delhi. MoS met and invited Minister of Industries of Thailand Utama Savanayana to lead the delegation.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dhamendra Pradhan visited Bangkok from 31 October-3 November 2017 for attending the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable.

Mr. R.S. Sharma, Chairman Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) visited Bangkok from 21-23 September 2017 for participating as a panelist in the 'Digital Thailand Big Bang 2017' organised by the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society and National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand.

Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla group of companies met Uttama Savanayana, Minister for Industries of Thailand on 12 April 2017. Industry Minister of Thailand, Deputy Foreign Minister Virasakdi Futrakul and Heads of major Thai companies attended an event organised by the Embassy during the visit of Shri Birla.

Suwaphan Tanyuvardhana, Minister of Justice of Thailand visited India from 28-30 June 2017. An MoU on Cooperation in Controlling Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, their Precursors and Chemicals, and Drug Abuse was signed during the visit.

11th meeting of India Thailand Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation was held from 28-30 June, 2017 in Phuket, Thailand to promote the bilateral security cooperation. The sixteen member Indian Delegation at the talks was led by Dr. Arvind Gupta, the then Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA).

Chakra 17 - the 2nd Joint counter terrorism exercise between National Security Guard (NSG), India and Counter Terrorist Operations Center (CTOC), Thailand was held from 1-10 October 2017 at Pranburi and Bangkok. A fifty member team from NSG participated in the ten days exercise which was primarily conducted at Thai Army location – Fort Thanarat, Pranburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan province.

An eleven member Air Force delegation led by Group Captain Sucharu Rai, visited Thailand to participate in the Ex-Siam Bharat 2017 from 22-26 May 2017. Ambassador Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi called on Thai Air Marshal Bhanupong Seyayongka, Deputy Chief of Air Staff of Thailand & participants during the concluding ceremony on 26 May 2017.

The 9th Indian Navy-Royal Thai Navy (IN-RTN) Staff Talks and 13th Joint Working Group on Establishment of the Order at Sea (JWG-EoS) Meeting were held in Bangkok from 28-31 May 17. The three member IN delegation led by Cmde. Manish Sharma also called on RTN Chief of Staff, Adm. Leuchai Ruddit.

The 8th round of Indian Air Force- Royal Thai Air Force (IAF-RTAF) Air Staff Talks was held in Bangkok from 19-21 September 2017. Air Vice Marshal (AVM) S Prabhakaran VM, Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) (Int) led a three member IAF delegation.

The ASEAN International Fleet Review (IFR) was held from 17-21 November 17. The Indian Navy participated in the IFR with one Kamrota class Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette, INS Kadmatt and one Shivalik class frigate, INS Satpura. The Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) was represented by Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief East (FOC-in-C East).

The year 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of India-Thailand diplomatic relations. On this occasion, the Festival of India in Thailand is being held since 1 August 2017 until March 2018. A variety of activities and events were organised in Bangkok and other provinces of Thailand. These events inter alia included classical dances and concerts (Manipuri, Bharatanatyam, Cultural performance by Tai Ethnic Groups of North-East India, Fusion Concert by Dr. L. Subramaniam), film festival, food festivals (Uttar Pradesh and Punjab), Seminar and exhibition on Ayurveda, Seminar on influence of Sanskrit & Pali on South East Asian Languages with special emphasis on Thai language, Seminar on Tai Ethnic Culture in North-East India, Golf Tournament and Bollywood & Yoga Workshops.

A statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at Rangsit University, Bangkok on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October 2017. The statue of Gandhiji, made by Shri Ram Sutar, was sent by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in 2015 to Thailand. This is the first statue of Gandhiji in Thailand outside the UN Convention Center.

## Singapore

During this year, India-Singapore bilateral relations achieved important strides in diverse areas including trade and investment, defence, security, skills, urban planning and civil aviation.



Deputy PM and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited New Delhi on 21-23 July to deliver keynote address at Delhi Economics Conclave on 22 July. During the visit he called on Prime Minister and met Minister of Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan visited New Delhi and Guwahati from 31 October - 1 November 2017. In New Delhi, Minister Balakrishnan co-chaired the Fifth India-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) for

Bilateral Cooperation with External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Minister Balakrishnan also spoke at the 'Singapore Symposium' co-organised by the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Singapore and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on how Singapore can help forge closer links between India and Southeast Asia. In Assam, Minister Balakrishnan and Chief Minister Shri Sonowal witnessed the signing of agreements to kick-start the implementation of the North East Skills Centre (NESC) in Guwahati. The NESC is Singapore's third skills centre in India.



*External Affairs Minister meets Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore in New Delhi on 31 October 2017.*

Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, visited Singapore from 15-16 November 2017. During his visit, he delivered keynote addresses to an audience of 5000 at the Singapore Fintech Festival and at the Asia Pacific Summit, which is an annual meet of global financial institutions being organised by Morgan Stanley. During his visit, Shri Arun Jaitley called on PM Lee and met DPM Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Minister of Finance, Mr. Heng Swee Keat. Secretary, DEA met Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Finance separately. He had a series of meetings and roundtables with Singapore based and global investors.

Singapore Minister of Trade & Industries (Industries) Mr. S Iswaran visited New Delhi and Andhra Pradesh on 16-17 November. In New Delhi, he called on Hon'ble Vice President, Minister of Road Transport, Highway and Shipping Shri Nitin

Gadkari, Minister of State for Urban Development (I/C) Shri Hardeep Puri, Minister of Railways Shri Piyush Goyal and Foreign Secretary. In Andhra Pradesh, he met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and co-chaired the second Joint Implementation Steering Committee (JISC) Meeting for Amaravati Project.

Minister of Defence of Republic of Singapore Dr Ng Eng Hen visited India on 28-29 November 2017 and during his visit he participated in the Second Defence Ministers' Dialogue with Minister of Defence Smt Nirmala Sitharaman on 29 November 2017. Both Ministers witnessed the signing of the Bilateral Agreement for Navy Cooperation, which will lead to increased cooperation in maritime security, joint exercises and mutual logistic support. Earlier on 28 November 2017 Defence Minister of Singapore visited Kalaikunda and met the officers

of the Republic of Singapore Air Force who were being trained at Kalaikunda. He also flew a sortie on a light combat aircraft (Tejas).

Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Singapore on 11-13 July 2017 and delivered 'S.T. Lee Distinguished Lecture' at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore on "India, ASEAN and Changing Geopolitics" and addressed a session at the Institute of South Asia Studies (ISAS). He called on Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and met Minister of Trade & Industry (Industry) S Iswaran, Defence Minister Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Home Affairs & Law K Shanmugam and Foreign Minister Dr. Balakrishnan.

Senior Minister of State (Defence and Foreign Affairs), Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman visited India on 4-5 July 2017 and participated in 9th Delhi Dialogue on "Charting the Course for India-ASEAN Relations for the Next 25 Years". He met MoS Gen. (Dr.) VK Singh (Retd.) and MoS (Defence) Dr Subhash Bhamre.

A three member delegation from National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) led by Mr. S. M. Sahai, Joint Secretary, NSCS visited Singapore for the India-Singapore Counter Terrorism and counter radicalisation workshop from 23 - 25 August 2017.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis visited Singapore from 28-29 September 2017. He called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, co-chaired an investment round table with Trade and Industry Minister Shri S. Iswaran and attended business round table with major financial institutions and infrastructure companies. In addition, he delivered a lecture at a well-attended event organized by Institute of South Asian Studies. He interacted with the students of Global Indian International School (GIIS) in Singapore and its branches in other countries and with the members of the Indian

community. Maharashtra Airport Development Company and Changi Airport Group signed a MoU for collaboration outlining possible areas of cooperation in the development of Pune and Nagpur international airports. The two sides also discussed cooperation in master planning for Pune and Nagpur, along the lines of Amravati, Andhra Pradesh capital city.

Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt called at the RSS Singapura Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Naval Base at Changi on a goodwill visit from 14-17 September 2017. On leaving Singapore, IN Ships conducted PASSEX with RS ships.

Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen met Raksha Mantri, on 24 October 2017 on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 4th ADMM-Plus in Manila. Both leaders reaffirmed the strong and long-standing defence relationship and discussed ways to enhance bilateral defence cooperation under the revised Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) signed in November 2015.

Senior Minister of State for Law and Finance Ms. Indraneel Rajah visited New Delhi on 10-13 October. She delivered Opening Address at Singapore International Arbitration Centre India Conference 2017. During the visit, she called on Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law and Justice, Electronics and IT.

Secretary, MSDE Dr. K P Krishnan visited Singapore from 4-7 October 2017. He met Dr. Janil Puthuchery, Sr. minister of State for Education, Communication and Information ; Mr. Ng Cher Pong, CEO of Skills Future ; and senior officials of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry, ITE Education Services and Temasek Foundation. He delivered the keynote address at a Seminar on Skills Development as well spoke at as a Closed Door Session organized by Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS). He also visited ITE HQs.



*Gen. (Dr.) V K Singh (Retd.), MoS for External Affairs meets Dr. Maliki Osman Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Singapore in New Delhi on 17 January 2018.*

## Timor Leste

India participated in the swearing in ceremony of President Mr. Francisco Guterres and 15th anniversary of the restoration of Independence of Timor-Leste held in Dili on 19-20 May 2017. The 3rd International Day of Yoga was successfully organised in Timor-Leste on 17 June 2017.

## Vietnam

India and Vietnam are celebrating 2017 as the Year of Friendship for commemorating the 45th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations and the 10th anniversary of establishment of Strategic Partnership. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. Dr. V. K. Singh (Retd.) visited Vietnam in April 2017 and inaugurated the Indian Cultural Centre in Hanoi along with the Vietnamese Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism H.E. Mr. Nguyen Vinh Ai. The celebrations marking the Year of Friendship were also formally inaugurated through a dance performance comprising numerous Indian classical dance forms at the Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City Operas as also in the city of Danang in Central Vietnam. Vietnam and India also institutionalised the structures of cooperation to implement the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreed upon between the two countries during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Official Visit to Vietnam in September 2016. A Plan of Action in this regard has been signed during the visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Pham Binh Minh between him and External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi in July 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc also held meetings on the side-lines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017 and at the ASEAN-India and East Asia Summit meetings in Manila in November 2017.

During the period, Minister of State for Commerce Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Vietnam in May for the 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi.

The 9th Foreign Office Consultations and the 6th Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Offices of the two countries were held in Hanoi in October 2017 led by Secretary (East) Smt Preeti Saran and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung.

Our economic engagement has witnessed a remarkable spurt. Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam for April 2016-March 2017 was US\$ 10.135 billion of which US\$ 6.815 were

Indian exports to Vietnam and US\$ 3.320 were Indian imports from Vietnam.

A number of Indian business-oriented delegations visited Vietnam to explore opportunities for trade and investment and to attract investments into India under the Make in India initiative. A delegation from the state of Telangana visited Vietnam in September 2017 to attract investments into the State in the textiles sector. A 12-member delegation from Krishnapatnam Port visited Vietnam in August-September 2017 for enhancing trade between Krishnapatnam Port and Vietnam and for cooperation with local shipping lines and logistic companies. A 36-member delegation led by Council for Leather Exports held discussions with Vietnamese leather industry and participated in the 19th Leather and Shoes Exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City in July 2017. A 9-member delegation from International Livestock Research Institute, India visited Vietnam in July 2017.

Vietnamese companies participated in the India Steel Expo 2017 in Mumbai in April 2017; in the IPHEX-2017 in the pharmaceutical sector in Hyderabad in April 2017; and in the Kids India 2017 organised by the Sports Goods Exports Promotion Council in September 2017. A high level delegation led by Mr. Nguyen Van Chi of Vinh Phuc Province visited India in October 2017 seeking enhanced trade and investments and held meetings with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and other industry associations. A Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Vo Cong Tri, Deputy Party Secretary of Danang, visited India in July seeking greater economic engagement and investments. A delegation of 28 members led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam, Vietnam Textiles and Apparel Association and Hanoi Promotion Agency participated in Textiles India 2017 in Gujarat in June-July 2017 organised by the Ministry of Textiles.

Ongoing development partnership projects between India and Vietnam continued and new projects have been initiated during this period. The US\$ 9.5 million Binh Bo Pumping Station project in Phu Tho province being executed under a Line of Credit provided by Government of India is nearing completion. Vietnam continues to be a large recipient of training programmes under the ITEC Programme. Presently, 129 ITEC slots are offered to Vietnam every year along with 10 scholarships under Mekong Ganga Cooperation Scholarship Scheme, twenty scholarships under the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme and fourteen slots under the Educational Exchange Programme. Separately, four slots for advanced

Buddhist and Sanskrit Studies have been offered to Vietnam which were announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his Official Visit in September 2016. Five projects under the Quick Impact Projects scheme are currently being processed for implementation in various provinces of Vietnam.

Defence cooperation has emerged as a significant pillar of our strategic partnership with Vietnam. Both countries continue to develop the relationship on the basis of the 'Joint Vision Statement' signed in May 2015 between the two Defence Ministers on Defence Relations for the period 2015-2020. Education and training continues to be a significant component in this relationship and India is currently offering 55-60 ITEC slots every year to Vietnamese defence personnel. Two Indian training teams – one from Indian Army for IT training and one from Indian Navy for English and IT training - are currently based in Vietnam and assisting Vietnamese training academies.

High level exchanges between the two armed forces continued during the year. These included visits by Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff in October, Chief of Air Staff in November, and from the Vietnamese side, the visit of the Chief of the General Political Department to India in November. The Annual Young Officers Exchange between the two Armies and the Youth Exchange between National Cadet Corps of India and Youth Federation of Vietnam is ongoing. During the period, Staff Talks between the two Navies and Armies were also held.

Indian naval and coast guard ships continue to make regular friendly port calls to Vietnam. During the period, two Indian naval ships, INS Satpura and INS Kadmat, made a port call to Haiphong port from 23-27 September 2017. A Maritime Defence Industry Workshop was held in Haiphong on the sidelines of the ship visits to encourage greater defence industry cooperation between the two countries.

Necessary procedures for implementation of the contract between M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd and Vietnam Border Guards for procurement of 12 offshore patrol vessels signed in September 2016 as part of the US\$ 100 million Line of Credit extended by India are being fast-tracked. Both sides are also finalising the various sectors for cooperation and for utilisation of the US\$ 500 million Line of Credit for Defence Industry extended during his Official Visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Vietnam in September 2016.

Vietnam is country coordinator for ASEAN-India from 2015-18. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the India-

ASEAN Dialogue Partnership and in preparation for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit scheduled to be held in Delhi in January 2018, a number of ASEAN related events and initiatives have been held. Two journalists from Vietnam visited India as part of a group of journalists from ASEAN countries in July 2017 under the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme. A Vietnamese Youth delegation travelled to India to participate in the ASEAN-India Youth Summit in Bhopal in August 2017. A high level delegation of members of the National Assembly from the India Parliamentary Friendship Group led by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Anh, CPV Central Committee Member and Party Secretary of Cao Bang Province, also attended the ASEAN-India Youth Summit in Bhopal. An artist from Vietnam also participated in the ASEAN-India Artists' Camp held in Udaipur in September, and the Vietnamese music band 'Red Bamboo' took part in the ASEAN-India Music Festival held in Delhi in October 2017. The "ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy: From Concept to Action" jointly hosted by Ministry of External Affairs of India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, the Indian Council for World Affairs, and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia was held in Nha Trang, Vietnam on 24-25 November 2017 with strong participation of all ASEAN Member States.

A number of events have been organised at the Indian Cultural Centre in Hanoi. Noted Kuchipudi Guru and Padmashree awardee Shri V. Jayarama Rao led a dance troupe that included four classical Indian dance forms and performed in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Danang and held workshops at the ICC. The 3rd International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations witnessed tremendous participation and enthusiasm among the Vietnamese. Around 4,000 persons participated at the IDY celebrations held in Hanoi at the Ly Thai To Square near the iconic Hoan Kiem lake on 17 June 2017. The event was organised by the Embassy with the cooperation of the People's Committee of Hanoi, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam. At the end of the yoga protocol, an "India-Vietnam Friendship Handshake Concert" was held to commemorate the IDY and the "India-Vietnam Friendship Year 2017". Thousands also participated at IDY celebrations in Ho Chi Minh City, Danang, Nha Trang, Vinh Phuc, Nghe An etc. A photo exhibition on Buddhist sites and heritage in India and

around the world was successfully held at the ICC and also at the 8th Congress of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha in Hanoi. The ICC celebrated the Diwali festival with the participation of around a thousand Vietnamese with diverse activities for cultural immersion such as saree draping, mehndi, lamp lighting, cookery show and music performances. ICC also organised a number of workshops on yoga, Indian cookery, Indian dance and music.

## Pacific Islands Countries

### Cook Islands

Finance Minister Mr. Mark Brown participated in the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji on 25 & 26 May 2017. During the Conference, India and Cook Islands signed MoU for Establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT in Cook Islands. Third International Day of Yoga (IDY2017) was celebrated in Cook Islands on 23 June 2017.

### Fiji

Indo-Fijian bilateral relations are strengthening. Bilateral interaction was more extensive and diversified, which included bilateral visits, development partnership, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), cooperation in education and health sectors, and cultural exchanges.

Fiji has become a Founder Member of the International Solar Alliance by submitting Instrument of Ratification of the Framework Agreement of the ISA on 25 September 2017 at New Delhi.

Government of India organised the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPISDC) which was held at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) and more than 40 senior officers/representatives from India participated. High level representatives from the 14 Pacific Islands countries attended the conference.

India announced assistance of US\$ 1mn for Fiji's COP23 Presidency Trust Fund and handed over the same on 19 June 2017.

Mr. RatuInoke Kubuabla, Fijian Minister of Defence visited Mumbai and New Delhi on 28-30 May 2017. During the visit, both Defence Ministers signed an MoU on Defence Cooperation. Ambassador Esala Teleni, the then-Chairman of

National Security Strategy Secretariat (NSSS) visited India on 23-29 July 2017. Fijian Minister of Agriculture and their COP23 Climate Champion Mr. Inia Seruiratu participated in FICCI's Business and Climate Summit along with Fiji's COP23 team on 31 August & 1 September 2017.

A 16-member delegation from National Defence College (NDC) visited Suva on 22-27 May 2017. Shri Om Prakash Dhankar, Haryana's Minister for Agriculture, Development & Panchayat, Mines & Geology, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Fisheries led a 13-member delegation to Fiji on 19 & 20 June 2017. Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change led two-member delegation to the Pre-COP23 meeting held at Nadi on 16-18 October 2017. Shri Varun Sindhu Kaumudi, Additional Secretary, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) led three-member delegation for 37th Asia and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators held at Nadi on 5-9 November 2017. Two-member EXIM Bank delegation visited Fiji on 6-10 November 2017.

Indian Government provided grant of US\$ 1.73 million towards assistance to the Fijian SME Sector on 26 May 2017. An amount of US\$ 290,000 towards third and final tranche of the total Indian assistance of US\$ 2.2 million, was given to Government of Fiji on 13 September 2017. India provided US\$ 1.01 million for interim sourcing of vehicles and agricultural equipment for Fijian sugar industry.

In 2016-17, India offered 165 slots for civil training courses (150 under ITEC and 15 under Colombo Plan) and 33 slots in defence to Fiji. Under 41st to 44th 'Know- India Program (KIP)', 39 Indo-Fijians visited India this year. Under the General Scholarship Scheme of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), in 2017-18, 30 slots were offered to Fiji. Ms. Eileen Pickering, in the Ministry of Defence Fiji participated in the 64th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) held at Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi from 27 September -27 October 2017. Col. SapenafaKeresoniMotufaga currently undergoing one year training at National Defence College(NDC), New Delhi for 57th NDC Course till December 2017.

Mr. Bosco Augustine Jerard was deputed for one year to serve as Coconut Specialist to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Fiji under ITEC programme of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi from 11 October 2016 - 10 October 2017. India

deputed Mrs. Bharati Satyanarayana, as IT Audit Expert to the Office of the Auditor General to the Government of Fiji under the ITEC Programme for a period of 8 weeks from 10 April 2017-2 June 2017.

## Namaste Pacifika: Festival of India

Fijian President inaugurated “Namaste Pacifika, A Festival of India” on 28 October 2017. The Festival, which is jointly sponsored by Ministry of Culture, ICCR, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of External Affairs, is being held from October 2017 to March 2018 in Fiji and six concurrently accredited countries.

## Kiribati

Member of Parliament of Kiribati Mr. Tekena Tiroa participated in the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji on 25 & 26 May 2017. Third IDY2017 was celebrated in Kiribati on 21 June 2017. The President and First Lady participated in the event. Minister of Infrastructure & Sustainable Development of Kiribati, Mr. Ruateki Tekaiaria visited India from 12-14 October 2017 for signing Framework Agreement of ISA during the curtain raiser event of RE-INVEST 2017. During his visit he met EAM on 13 October 2017. As a part of Namaste Pacifika, Festival of India, the Ministry of Culture-sponsored Indian Classical Dance (Odissi) Group led by Ms. Meera Das performed in Kiribati on 12 November 2017. India provided an assistance of US\$ 1.1 million towards Solar Lighting Project in Kiribati.

## Federal States of Micronesia

One nominee from FSM is presently attending the Basic Hydrography Course at the National Institute of Hydrography, Goa. The course is from June 2017 - January 2018.

## Nauru

President of Nauru Mr. Baron Waqa participated in the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji on 25 & 26 May 2017. During the Conference, India and Nauru signed MoU for Establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT in Nauru. Third IDY2017 was celebrated in Nauru on 24 June 2017. The Chief Guest was Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of Republic of Nauru. Nauru has become a Founder Member of the International Solar Alliance by submitting Instrument of Ratification of the Framework

Agreement of the ISA in May 2017. ICCR-sponsored 11-member Lavani dance group performed in Nauru August 2017 for health awareness campaign focusing towards disabled persons.

## Niue

Bilateral relations between India and Niue continued to remain cordial and friendly. India's developmental cooperation has continued to grow with Niue. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh, (Retd.) met Mr. Toke Tofukia Talagi, Prime Minister of Niue.

## Papua New Guinea

Ms. Lucy Bogari, High Commissioner of PNG to Fiji participated in the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. The period 2017-18 for bilateral relations between India and Papua New Guinea is marked by an increased participation of PNG candidates into ITEC programmes. There are heightened commercial interactions between business communities from India and business interests in Papua New Guinea, especially in the procurement of gold ore. However, highlight of this period is provision of grant-in-aid by Government of India to the Government of Papua New Guinea amounting to US\$ 7,60,549 for providing computers, ancillaries, office equipment, and for a solar powered community centre and for text books for high schools.

A ministerial delegation led by Mr Richard Maru, Minister for National Planning and Monitoring, and including Minister for Inter-Government Relations Kevin Isifu, Minister for ICT and Energy Sam Basil, Minister for Education Nick Kuman, Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Benny Allen, Governor for West New Britain province Sasindran Muthuvel and Chairman of the Constitutional Law Reform Commission Robert Atiafa visited India from 10-15 December 2017 and interacted with various ministers in New Delhi and discussed prospective areas of development cooperation.

## Palau

Ms. Adora Nobuo, Executive Director, Palau Chamber of Commerce attended the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva from 25-26 May 2017. Two nominees from Palau also attended the Tsunami Preparedness on Early Warning System for Oceanic disaster and mitigation held at Hyderabad in November 2017 which was

organised by Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services. Government of India also approved a grant of US\$ 2,00,000 each for the Youth small scale projects for year 2016 and for the Year of Family for year 2017. In multilateral fora, Palau has been supporting India's candidature to international bodies such as ICJ and IMO.

## Samoa

India's developmental cooperation has continued to grow with Samoa. Minister of State for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh, (Retd.) met Deputy PM of Samoa, Ms. Fiame Naomi Mataafa on the sidelines of the India-Pacific Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji from 25-26 May 2017. MoUs was signed on setting up of a Centre of Excellence in Samoa and Niue during the Conference.

## Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands relations with India have been friendly. Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination attended the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva from 25-26 May 2017.

## Tonga

Mr. Semisi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries from Kingdom of Tonga participated in the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji on 25 & 26 May 2017. Third IDY2017 was celebrated in Tonga on 24 June 2017. On the eve of Tongan Independence Day, as a part of Namaste Pacifica, Festival of India, the Ministry of Culture-sponsored Indian Classical Dance (Odissi) Group led by Ms. Meera Das performed in Tonga on 3 November 2017.

## Tuvalu

Deputy Prime Minister of Tuvalu Mr. Maatia Toafa participated in the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji on 25 & 26 May 2017. Third IDY2017 was celebrated in Tuvalu on 23 June 2017. ICCR-sponsored 12-Member 'Taka-Dimi-Ta' Bollywood Dance Group led by Mr Narendra Kumar performed in Tuvalu in August 2017 as a part of India@70. India provided US\$ 2,75,122 towards construction of three local Government offices. India also provided an assistance of AUD 10,000 for trade fair in Tuvalu.

## Vanuatu

Mr. Ham Lini, Minister of Climate Change, Vanuatu participated in the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference held at Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. As a part of Namaste Pacifica, Festival of India, the Ministry of Culture-sponsored Indian Classical Dance (Odissi) Group led by Ms. Meera Das performed in Vanuatu on 7 November 2017. Acting Prime Minister Mr. Joe Natuman was the Chief Guest at the event.

## Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, co-chaired the 15th ASEAN-India Summit at Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2017. At the Summit, Prime Minister commended the ASEAN way of cooperation guided by consensus based consultation and reiterated India's support, together with ASEAN, towards a rules-based order for the oceans and sea that is critical for the peaceful growth and development of the Indo-Pacific region. He called for enhancing the strategic partnership with ASEAN by designating security and economic cooperation in maritime domain as a focus area of strategic cooperation. He proposed intensification of Joint exercises, naval review enhancing maritime connectivity and a Protocol on Blue Economy. Underlining India's commitment to adopt a zero tolerance policy and a comprehensive approach in fighting violent extremism and terrorism, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called for adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations. Stating that an ASEAN, seamlessly connected with India over land, maritime and digital routes would boost our economic as well as socio cultural development.

MoS for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), participated in the 15th ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 7 August 2017.

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.

The year 2017 was a historic milestone in ASEAN India relations wherein we celebrated 25 years of our Dialogue Partnership, 15 years of our Summit Level interaction and 5 years of our Strategic Partnership during this year. Concurrently, ASEAN also celebrated its own Golden Jubilee during this year.

As part of the 25th anniversary celebrations, a series of events were held throughout the year both in India and in ASEAN countries, on the theme "Shared Values, Common Destiny". The activities spanned the three pillars of our engagement with ASEAN, the politico-security, economic, and socio-cultural.

To mark the launch of the commemorative year on 28 January 2018, our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi exchanged messages of congratulations with President Duterte of the Philippines, the ASEAN Chair. A similar message was also exchanged between EAM and Secretary General of ASEAN.

A major focus of the activities was on Youth, who are the future of the relationship. The activities included a Youth Summit in Bhopal, '30 under 30' Youth Awards, a Band Festival in New Delhi, an Artist Residency, an enhanced Students Exchange Programme (strength increased from 250 to 500) and an Hackathon and Start Up Festival, etc. Business events included a Biz Tech Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, a Trade Fair organised by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok, Act East Business Expo in Shillong and a Connectivity Summit in New Delhi. The ASEAN India Women Business Forum was also launched on the sidelines of the 9th edition of Delhi Dialogue in July 2017.

Other important activities included a Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas that was held in Singapore, Port Calls to ASEAN countries by Indian Naval Ships, ASEAN India Film Festival and Ramayana Festival held in New Delhi and a ASEAN North East Sports and Cultural Festival held in Guwahati. A specially created Park called the Bharat ASEAN Maitri Park was also inaugurated as part of the commemorative activities.

The grand culmination of the commemorative celebrations was the ASEAN India Commemorative Summit that was held on 25 January 2018, hosted by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Summit was attended by the leaders of all ten ASEAN countries. The Summit featured release of 11 Commemorative Stamps, a Plenary Session and a Retreat Session in which various aspects of ASEAN India Relations were deliberated upon by the leaders. Business Events that were held in the run up to the Summit included the Business and Investment Meet & Expo, Business Council Forum Meeting and the Textile Event.

In an unprecedented gesture the leaders of the ten ASEAN countries were also invited to attend the Republic Day Parade held on 26 January 2018, signifying the importance that we attach to our relationship with ASEAN. The Republic Day Parade featured a display of the flags of ASEAN and all ten

ASEAN member countries, two cultural tableaux and a dance display by school children to portray the deep cultural and civilizational linkages between India and ASEAN.

## East Asia Summit (EAS)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, participated in the 12th East Asia Summit on 14 November 2017 in Manila. Acknowledging the East Asia Summit as the prime forum for the Leaders to shape an agenda for regional cooperation, Prime Minister identified terrorism as the most serious challenge to international peace and security. He mentioned that the competitive advantage of one country in India's neighbourhood rests solely in producing and exporting Terrorism and called for isolating and sanctioning this Global Exporter of Terror. Prime Minister also shared India's perspectives on issues such as maritime cooperation, human trafficking, etc. with his counterparts.

MoS for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), participated in the 7th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 7 August 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

## Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar led the Indian delegation for the 1st ASEM Conference on Women Economic Empowerment that was held on 25-26 May 2017 at Vilnius, Lithuania. Speaking at the inaugural session on the theme 'Women's Economic Empowerment Creating Equal Opportunities in the World of Work' the Minister highlighted the prominent initiatives that have been taken by the Government of India towards Women Empowerment. Re-affirming in our commitment to gender equality and economic empowerment of women the Minister conveyed our offer to host the 2nd ASEM Conference on Women Empowerment in 2018 in India.

MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian delegation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting that was held on 20-21 November 2017 at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Speaking at the plenary session on Synergising Peace and Sustainable Development, the MoS spoke about the need to develop strong mechanisms to counter all forms of terrorism and highlighted the steps taken by India to promote sustainable development. The MoS also spoke at the plenary session on Making the ASEM Partnership more Dynamic and Connected where he highlighted the importance of partnerships being based on mutual benefits and mutual respect. The MoS also stressed upon the importance of connectivity and the need for ASEM interactions to be more focussed and action oriented.



## Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

The 8th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials Meeting was held on 7 April 2017 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA. At the meeting, the Senior Officials reviewed the progress made on implementation of various aspects of the MGC Plan of Action 2016-18.

India co-chaired along with Myanmar, the 8th MGC Ministerial Meeting that was held in Manila, Philippines on 7 August 2017. Indian side was led by Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), MoS for External Affairs. The Ministers noted the progress on implementation of the MGC Plan of Action 2016-18 and appreciated the operationalisation of the MGC Textiles Museum in Cambodia. The Ministers also agreed to continue efforts to enhance cooperation in the existing areas and also identify new areas of cooperation. The Ministers also noted India's offer to host the 1st Consultative meeting for formation of the Joint Working Group on SME Cooperation and the 1st Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Health Cooperation.

As part of our efforts towards implementation of the MGC Plan of Action and enhancing engagement with the MGC countries, we hosted the 1st MGC Policy Dialogue on 'Stronger Connectivity Enhancing Ties' at New Delhi on 8 April 2017. The event was attended by the MGC Senior officials and renowned academics, scholars and businessmen from the MGC countries. The outcome report of the Policy Dialogue was released at the MGC Ministerial Meeting and the MGC Senior Officials were tasked to analyse the recommendations with a view to evolve the future course of MGC activities.

India also hosted the 1st Consultative meeting for formation of the Joint Working Group on SME Cooperation in New Delhi

on 20 September 2017. The meeting was attended by officials of all MGC countries who arrived at a framework of cooperation in the SME sector. The officials also agreed to formally create the Joint Working Group. India also hosted the 1st Joint Working Group on Health Cooperation in New Delhi on 29-30 November 2017.

We also hosted the 1st MGC Business Conclave in New Delhi on 23 January 2017 in the run up to the ASEAN India Commemorative Summit. Organising the Business Conclave was an important agenda of the MGC Plan of Action. The Business leaders of India and MGC countries discussed the potential areas of business and trade cooperation and devolve a framework for enhancing trade cooperation among the MGC countries. The conclave was inaugurated by Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), MoS for External Affairs in the preece of the Trade Ministers from the MGC Countries.

## Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

At the 12th East Asia Summit, Prime Minister stated that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) should be balanced and built on the pillars of inclusiveness with equal emphasis to goods, services and investments. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also witnessed the adoption of a Joint Leaders' Statement on the Negotiations for the RCEP at the sidelines of the 12th East Asia Summit.

Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers + India Consultations held in Manila on 11 September 2017 where the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen economic cooperation

## East Asia

### Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Since its inception in December 1973, the diplomatic relations between India and DPRK have been cordial. In 2017, DPRK conducted a series of missile and nuclear tests. India deplored the nuclear and ballistic missile programme of the DPRK and remains concerned about the proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies which has adversely impacted India's national security. There was no high-level visit to and from India to DPRK during the year.

### Japan

India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years, propelled by successful and regular high-level visits.

Highlight of India-Japan relations in 2017 was Japanese Prime Minister Abe's visit to India from 12-14 September 2017 for the 12th Annual Summit (fourth between the Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Abe) during which both-sides reviewed the recent progress in the multi-faceted cooperation under the framework of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.



*Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, his spouse Akie Abe and Prime Minister participate in a roadshow enroute their journey from the Airport to Sabarmati Ashram, Gujarat on 13 September 2017.*

During the visit, the programme included ground breaking ceremony of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR), marking the commencement of the project on ground. There was remote launching of some key collaborative initiatives such as Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Karnataka, Japanese

Endowed Course (JEC) at Andhra Pradesh, Japan Industrial Township to be developed in Gujarat and a scaled up model of Varanasi Convention Centre in Varanasi.

Further, coinciding with the visit, agreements were signed between India and Japan in the domains of Disaster Risk Management, Make-in-India, Investment Promotion, Civil

Aviation Cooperation (Open Sky), Sports related exchanges, interdisciplinary theoretical and mathematical sciences (iTHEMES), Biological Sciences (Simons-NCBS) and Biotechnology. Agreements were also signed to facilitate Japanese Language Education for better communication between people of two countries and for connectivity and infrastructure development in the North East Region of India (India Japan Act East Forum).

A Joint Statement entitled “Toward a Free, Open and Prosperous Indo-Pacific” was signed by the two Prime Ministers with both the Prime Ministers welcoming the significant deepening of bilateral relations and the growing convergence in the political, economic and strategic interests, based on the firm foundation of common values and traditions, as well as on an emerging consensus on contemporary issues of peace, security and development. The two Prime Ministers affirmed strong commitment to align India’s Act East Policy and Japan’s Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy (FOIPS). Strong condemnation of terrorism, support for India’s membership to the international export control regimes and the combined vision for UNSC reforms were demonstration of a deep commitment of the two sides on multilateral issues.

The two Prime Ministers, subsequently also met on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Manila in November 2017 (11th meeting between the two leaders in the last three years). The high-level dialogue both bilaterally and at international fora reflects the strong commitment by both countries to foster greater convergence and co-operation, and make India-Japan ties one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

Raksha Mantri’s visit to Tokyo in September 2017 for the Annual Defence Dialogue, Third JWG on Defence Equipment Technology Cooperation (DETC) held in Tokyo in September 2017 and the scaled up participation in the MALABAR exercises at the coast of Chennai in 2017 set a substantive backdrop to our bilateral defence engagement with Japan.

The Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Japan in November 2016, was passed by the Japanese Diet in June 2017 and came into force in July 2017 with the completion of internal procedures on both sides.

The 2+2 meeting of Foreign and Defence Secretaries from both the sides was held in March 2016 with the Foreign Office Consultations also taking place on the sidelines. The National Security Advisor (NSA) - level talks were held in Tokyo in April 2017.

Bilateral Ministerial visits between the two sides included the visits of Minister for Economy, Trade & Industry (METI) Mr. Hiroshige Seko to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2017, Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal to Japan in March 2017, Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman, the then Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (IC) to Japan in April 2017, Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister and Defence Minister to Japan in May 2017 and in September 2017 as RM for the Annual Defence Ministerial Meeting, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Skill Development in October 2017 to Japan to discuss the issues of mutual interests including Technical Interns Training Programme of Japan and Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Mr. Keiichi Ishii to India in December 2017 to discuss Rail and other infrastructure related matters. Other significant visits included MOS, METI Mr. Yusuke Takagi to Andhra Pradesh to participate in the “Andhra Pradesh-Japan Public Private Joint Conference” in July 2017.

The 6th Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Talks were held in Tokyo in April 2017, as a follow-up to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s visit in November 2016. Other important high-level interactions include, Secretary (Economic Relations)’s meeting in Tokyo in March 2017 to discuss possible India Japan collaboration in connectivity and infrastructure projects in Africa, inaugural India-Japan Dialogue on ASEAN in New Delhi in March 2017, Third Dialogue on Maritime Affairs in Tokyo in April 2017, 6th India-Japan Dialogue on Africa to explore potential co-operation in the areas of capacity building, besides infrastructure and connectivity, in New Delhi in June 2017, 2nd Round of the Dialogue on Cyber Security in Tokyo in August 2017, 3rd Round of India-Japan Dialogue on Asia-Africa Growth Corridor in Tokyo in August 2017, The 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism in November 2017 in Tokyo and The Vice Ministerial level Japan-Australia-India Trilateral Dialogue in New Delhi in December 2017.

The engagement between the Indian States and Japanese Prefectures continued and was enhanced with the visits of the Chief Ministers of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. In addition, delegations visited Japan from Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha and Assam.

Japan is a key partner in India’s economic transformation. Investments from Japan to India rose by over 80% to US\$ 4.7 billion in 2016-17 making Japan India’s third largest source of

FDI in cumulative terms. There are 1305 Japanese companies (as of October 2016) registered in India, an increase of 6% as compared to the previous year. The panoply of Agreements signed during PM Abe's recent visit to India will reinforce Japan's role in infrastructure development, energy, technology and capacity building in India

## Mongolia

India's traditionally friendly and cordial relations with Mongolia have steadily improved over the years, following the Prime Minister's historic visit to Mongolia in May 2015. India-Mongolia relations were upgraded to Strategic Partnership during the visit.

India continued to provide technical and economic cooperation to Mongolia in higher education, Information & Communication Technology and human resource development. A Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$1 billion utilization is underway for construction of first ever oil refinery in Mongolia. This is the largest project being undertaken by the Government of India under its LoC scheme.

The then Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mr. J. Erdenebat called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 June, 2017 on the sidelines of St. Petersburg Economic Forum and discussed issues of bilateral interest. Minister of State (Home) Mr. Kiren Rijju held bilateral meeting with the then Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. U. Khurelsukh in Cancun, Mexico during UN Conference on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in May, 2017.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi sent a congratulatory message to the new President of Mongolia, Mr. K. Battulga in June 2017 and invited him to visit India. Prime Minister also sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Mr. U. Khurelsukh who took over as Mongolia's new Prime Minister in October 2017.

India-Mongolia cooperation in the field of defence progressed well during the year. 'Nomadic Elephant 2017', the 12th India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise took place in Mizoram from 05 April till 18 April 2017. The exercise is aimed at training the troops in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations under the United Nations Mandate.

Other important visits included-

- A 3-member delegation led by Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority participated in the UNISDR Asia Partnership Conference on Disaster Management hosted

jointly by the UN and the Mongolian National Emergency Management Agency in Ulaanbaatar from 5-7 April 2017,

- A 5-member delegation led by Director General, Civil Aviation visited Ulaanbaatar on 6 August 2017 to take part in the 54th Conference of Director General of Civil Aviation Asia and Pacific Regions,
- Union Public Service Commission Chairman Prof. David Syiemleh visited Mongolia from 18-22 October 2017 at the invitation of the Mongolian Civil Service Council,
- Director General, Border Security Force led a delegation to Mongolia from 28-30 October 2017 and held bilateral talks with Head of the Mongolian General Authority for Border Protection (GABP),
- A composite delegation led by Advisor (Infrastructure) from Ministry of External Affairs visited Ulaanbaatar from 8-12 November 2017 and organized workshop on LoCs of US\$ 1 billion & US\$ 20 million with participation by representatives from EXIM Bank, Engineers India Limited & Water and Power Consultancy Services Limited (WAPCOS). The delegation also met with Heads of Mining & Heavy Industry Ministry, Culture & Education Ministry, Chief of the Cabinet Secretariat and officials of Finance and Foreign Ministries. The delegation also visited proposed oil refinery site in Sainshand region. The delegation also visited sites identified for the construction of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee IT Centre and the School No.16 for the proposed Friendship School in Ulaanbaatar.
- Foreign Policy Advisor of President of Mongolia visited India from 10-15 January 2018 to participate in Dharma Dhamma Conference organized in collaboration with the India Foundation, MEA and Vietnam Buddhist University in Rajgir, Nalanda.
- A Mongolian dance troupe performed in Delhi, Kolkata and Assam in January 2018.

Humanitarian relief assistance of US\$ 20,000 was provided in May 2017 to the families and children of herders affected by the severe winter in Mongolia.

A separate English language training programme for 20 officers of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mongolia has started in New Delhi from November 2017 for about three months organized by India's Border Security Force.

## Republic of Korea

The India-Republic of Korea (RoK) bilateral relationship, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister to RoK in 2015, gathered further momentum following the election of President Moon Jae-in in May 2017.

Prime Minister Modi telephonically congratulated President Moon on his election victory on 11 May 2017. Underscoring

his stated policy of widening RoK's closest partnerships to include India, President Moon sent Mr. Chung Dongchea to India as his special envoy in June, a first in the bilateral relationship.

Continuing the leadership level interaction, Prime Minister Modi held a bilateral meeting with President Moon during the G-20 Summit in Hamburg on 8 July 2017, and invited President Moon to visit India.



*Prime Minister meets Moon Jae-In, President of South Korea during the G20 Summit, 2017 in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July 2017.*

Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh (29-31 May), Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis (26-27 September 2017) and Andhra Pradesh Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu (4-6 December 2017) visited RoK in 2017-18. In addition, delegations led by Mr. S. Kishore, Principal Secretary, Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal and Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Minister of Finance, Government of Assam also visited RoK in October and November 2017 respectively.

From the Korean side, Mr. Park Won-soon, Mayor of the Seoul Metropolitan Government visited India from 8-10 November 2017 and met Lt. Governor of Delhi, Chief Minister of Delhi,

Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Development and Chairman of New Delhi Municipal Corporation and discussed cooperation between the Seoul Metropolitan Government and Delhi Government.

Mr. Cho Hyun, 2nd Vice Foreign Minister led an inter-ministerial delegation to the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) held in New Delhi from 23-24 November 2017.

In an effort to expand cooperation in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament, India and RoK also held their first Director-General level Bilateral Consultations on Nuclear and Disarmament issues on 17 November 2017 at Jeju.

Further, the visit of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Prof. P. J. Kurien to RoK to attend the 2nd Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliament from 26-28 June 2017, his meeting with Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of Korea and subsequent meeting between Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and her counterpart Mr. Chung on the sidelines of the 137th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly at St. Petersburg in October 2017, intensified engagements at the Parliamentary level.

Furthering the academic interactions between the two countries, Ananta Aspen Centre and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs hosted the 16th edition of India-Korea Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi from 30 November to 1 December 2017. In addition, the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) hosted a Korean delegation from the Sejong Institute for another India-Korea Dialogue mechanism in New Delhi on 18 December 2017.

In the economic field, both bilateral trade and investment increased markedly in the year. In the first seven months of 2017, Korean exports rose 30% while Indian exports rose 26.5%. This is the first increase in trade since 2011. Korean investment flows to India resumed with the announcement of Kia motors (a subsidiary of the Hyundai Motor Group) investing US\$ 1.6 billion, in two phases, to construct two automobile production lines in Andhra Pradesh. Other major investment announcements included a US\$ 770 million expansion of manufacture by Korea's Samsung Electronics, a US\$ 150 million purchase of an Indian confectionery firm by Korea's Lotte Group, and an MoU to invest US\$ 300 million in Textiles sector in Telengana by Youngone group.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley visited RoK from 14-17 June 2017 to co-chair the 5th India-Korea Financial Dialogue. The visit also resulted in the signing of an MoU between Export-Import Banks of two countries to establish US\$ 9 billion in Korean concessional credit and an agreement between the two governments on US\$ 1 billion in Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) funding for infrastructure development projects in India. During the visit, Finance Minister called on President Moon Jae-in and had separate meetings with the senior leadership of premier Korean companies.

Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu visited Seoul from 21 - 23 September 2017 to participate in the 7th Asia-Europe Economic Ministers meeting and the 3rd Joint

Ministerial Review of the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which he co-chaired with Mr. Kim Hyun-chong, Minister for Trade of RoK. Other senior visitors from India to RoK included Secretary, Ministry of Textiles (April 2017) and Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industry (September 2017).

In May 2017, after over five years of work to complete necessary phyto-sanitary procedures required by Korean authorities, Indian mango exports to RoK commenced. Promotional activities were organized for the launch of Indian mangoes in RoK.

Finance Minister & Raksha Mantri Shri Arun Jaitley, during his visit to RoK in June 2017, met with the Minister of National Defence of RoK, with a view to further deepen defence ties and enhance cooperation in the field of defence industries.

The 7th bilateral Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) was held on 16 October 2017 in Seoul between Secretary (DP) and Minister, Defence Acquisition & Program Administration of RoK. The 4th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) was held on 3-6 December 2017 between Secretary DRDO & RoK's Defence Acquisition & Program Administration for Defence Development. The 8th HLM between Indian and Korean Coast Guard was held in Seoul on 13-14 December 2017 and a two-member delegation led by DG ICG attended the meeting. ICG Ship "SHAURYA" visited RoK on 11-15 December 2017.

Pacific Armies Chiefs' Conference (PACC) was held at Seoul from 18-21 September 2017. India was represented in the conference by Lt Gen BS Negi, GOC-in-C, Central Command. A think tank seminar/ round table between Yonsei University, Agency for Defence Development of RoK and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, DRDO and National Institute of Advanced Studies was held in Bengaluru in September to focus on the potential in bilateral aerospace cooperation in airpower and aerospace including defence production and R&D.

In association with Korea Yoga Association and other provincial yoga organizations, Embassy of India, Seoul organised month long yoga events, workshops and competitions to commemorate 3rd International Day of Yoga in June 2017 in Seoul, Busan, Gwangju, Miryang, Dongguk University and Wonkwang Digital University. Two major events held in Seoul and Busan attracted more than 2000 participants each. In addition, Embassy in association with Miryang City, organized 1st International Yoga Therapy Conference on 1-2 July 2017,

which witnessed more than 800 participants including yoga scholars from various countries.

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of India's Independence, India organized a 10-day cultural festival SARANG on 20-29 October 2017 in Seoul, Busan, Seosan, Gimhae and Miryang. The festival presented Indian classical music by eminent musicians like Pt. Hariparasad Chaurasia, Pt. Viswa Mohan Bhatt and their group, contemporary Indian dance with Indian and Korean music, traditional and folk dances from India, cuisine, films and yoga to Korean people.

Shri Heera Lal, Secretary (Culture), State Government of Uttar Pradesh led an Indian delegation to the 1st Queen Heo (Indian princess Suriratna) festival held in Gimhae which was also celebrated as part of SARANG festival.

The Korean Society for India Studies, with support from ICCR, organized an International Conference, commemorating 70th anniversary of India's Independence, titled 'India in Asia' on 8-9 December 2017 at Seoul National University inviting scholars from India, Korea, Japan, China, USA, France and Sri Lanka.



## Eurasia

### Russian Federation

Prime Minister Modi and President Putin met during the year for the 18th Annual Bilateral Summit in St. Petersburg in June 2017 and also on the sidelines of G20 meeting in Hamburg in July 2017 and BRICS summit in Xiamen, China in September 2017. PM Modi also had a telephonic conversation on 3 January 2018.

In 2017, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Dmitry Rogozin visited India for the meeting of Co-Chairs of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological & Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) on 20 May 2017 and 23 December 2017. EAM co-chaired the meetings from the Indian side.



*Prime Minister and the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, at the India-Russia CEO's meeting, at Konstantin Palace, in St. Petersburg, Russia on 1 June 2017.*

The 17th Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC – MTC) took place in Moscow on 23 June 2017. Raksha Mantri (RM) Co-Chaired this meeting along with Defence Minister Mr. Sergei Shoigu.

Minister of Defence, Finance and Corporate Affairs of India Shri Arun Jaitley attended the 6th Moscow Conference on International Security on 25-26 April 2017. He had a bilateral

meeting with his Russian counterpart during this visit. Shri Jaitley visited Russia again from 21-23 June 2017 and Co-Chaired, along with DPM Rogozin, the first ever meeting of the India-Russia High-Level Committee on Science and Technology held in Novosibirsk.

NSA visited Russia in May 2017 to attend the 8th International Meeting of High Level Officials Responsible for Security Matters in Zavidovo.



Lok Sabha Speaker Smt Sumitra Mahajan led a composite parliamentary delegation comprising of five members of the Indian Parliament to Russia in July 2017 for the 4th Meeting of the India-Russia Parliamentary Commission. She visited Russia again in October 2017 where she led the Indian Parliamentary Delegation in the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which took place in St. Petersburg from 13-18 October 2017.

As part of his 3-day visit to Russia from 26-29 November 2017, Home Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh met with Mr. Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Minister for Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary, Security Council, and Mr. Vladimir Puchkov, Minister for the Emergency Situations.

EAM represented the Government of India at the SCO's Heads of Government Summit in Sochi on 30 November – 1 December 2017. This was the first Heads of Government Summit of the SCO where India participated after joining as a full member in June 2017.

During his visit to India on 11 December 2017 for RIC Foreign Ministerial, FM Lavrov also delivered a lecture at the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) on the global situation and the future of Russian-Indian relations.

India-Russia Foreign Office Consultations were held between Foreign Secretary Dr. S Jaishankar and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov as also on diverse regional issues between relevant interlocutors on the two sides.

In the first-ever Tri Services exercise – 'INDRA 2017' that took place in Vladivostok from 19-29 October 2017, thousand Indian servicemen and two naval ships took part. Thousand Russian Servicemen joined the Exercise that focused on Counter-terror operations.

Secretary (Defence Production) led the Indian delegation to the second edition of the India-Russia Military-Industrial Conference that took place in Moscow in August 2017.

India also participated in the International military-Technical Forum 'Army-2017' held in Moscow in August 2017.

A four-member delegation led by Shri Sanjay Mitra, Defence Secretary visited Russia from 19-23 September 2017 and visited the Original Equipment Manufacturers.

Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Smt Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 17th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPEIF) in June 2017.

India participated in the TEXTILLEGPROM 2017 exhibition held in Moscow in August 2017.

EAM led the Indian delegation in the Eastern Economic Forum held in Vladivostok in September 2017. A business delegation from India participated in the Forum which witnessed the organization of a session (first ever) dedicated to India-Russia Business Dialogue, and the launch of 'Russia Desk' under the aegis of Invest India.

CIM, Shri Suresh Prabhu visited Russia from November 2017 to attend the SCO Meeting of Ministers of Trade and Economy, and had a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the event.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri J P Nadda visited Moscow in November 2017 to attend the WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB.

A delegation led by Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Shri Ramesh Abhishek participated in Fifth working group on Priority Investment Project (with Russian Ministry of Economic Development) that was held in Moscow on 18 September 2017. Shri Abhishek also co-chaired Fifth Working Group on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation (with Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade) on 20 September 2017 in Moscow.

The Second Meeting of the Russia India Network of Universities (RIN) was held in Moscow (5-7 October 2017) & Tomsk (08-10 October 2017). Representatives from seven Indian Institutes of Technology, and Rectors and Vice – Rectors from 13 Russian universities participated in the event.

Russia included India in the list of countries with access to a liberalized visa regime for entry to Russia's Far East.

"India Russia Student's Conference" was organized at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi, on 18 December 2017 with the participation of all the stakeholders. Many cities from India and Russia joined via video conference.

Consultations between Foreign Secretary Dr. S Jaishankar and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov are scheduled in New Delhi on 17 January 2018.

## Armenia

During his visit to Armenia in April 2017, Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President met with the Armenian President, Prime Minister and Catholicos of All Armenians. Foreign Minister of

Armenia called on him. Three MOUs: MOU on Cooperation in Youth Matters, MOU on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of

Outer Space and Programme of Cultural Cooperation were signed during the visit.



*Serzh Sargsyan, President of Armenia arrives in New Delhi on his 3-day visit to India from 2 November 2017.*

President of Armenia Mr. Serzh Sargsyan visited India from 2-4 November 2017. He attended the inaugural session of World Food India, called on President Shri Ram Nath Kovind and met with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu called on him. President Sargsyan also visited Taj Mahal on 4 November 2017.

A 16 member business delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Armenia on 28 & 29 September 2017.

Deputy Minister of Defense of Armenia Mr. David Pakhchanyan visited India from 19-23 December 2017.

## **Azerbaijan**

MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar visited Baku on 30 November-01 December 2017 to attend the 7th Ministerial Meeting of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process. During the visit, he called on President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev and met with Foreign Minister, Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov. Shri Akbar also met with the Rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic

Academy (ADA) University and Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Hafiz Pashayev and gave a speech to the faculty and the students of the University on combating radicalization among youth.

ONGC Videsh Limited was among the international oil companies which signed the amended and restated Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and Azerbaijan Government at Baku on 14 September 2017 in the presence of President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev.

A team from Azerbaijan Rural Investment Programme (AzRIP) visited India in April-May 2017 on a study tour on the theme of livelihood development and infrastructure development.

An India-Azerbaijan Business Forum and Exhibition 'Best of India Show' was held in Baku in March 2018.

## **Belarus**

President of Belarus Mr. Alexander Lukashenko visited India on 11 & 12 September 2017. During the visit, 6 official documents and 10 business agreements were signed.



*Prime Minister, President and President of Belarus, A.G. Lukashenko, during the ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on 12 September 2017.*

9th Meeting of India- Belarus Joint Commission on Military & Technical Cooperation was held in Minsk in May 2017 and the 8th Session of the Indian-Belarusian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation in New Delhi in July 2017.

India-Belarus business forums were held in New Delhi coinciding with the 8th IGC Session in July 2017 and again during the State Visit of President Lukashenko in September 2017.

In February 2017, Belarus announced visa free travel to Belarus upto five days for nationals of 80 countries including India.

## Georgia

Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Mr. Giorgi Gakharia visited India on 10 & 11 April 2017 and met with the Ministers of Road Transport and Shipping, Rail, Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation. During the visit, bilateral Air Services Agreement was signed.

The Third Session of India-Georgia Inter-Governmental

Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC) and Fifth India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs), were held in New Delhi on 14 September 2017.

The relics of St. Queen Ketevan of Georgia were sent for a six month long exhibition to Georgia in September 2017.

An Agreement between India and Georgia on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports was signed on 31 July 2017.

## Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan was the host for two major events in 2017, the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the EXPO 2017, for which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Kazakhstan.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship co-chaired the 13th meeting of India-Kazakhstan Inter Governmental Commission (IGC) held in Astana on 19 & 20 September 2017.



*Prime Minister meets Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan in Astana on 8 June 2017.*

Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Kazakhstan on 16 & 17 November 2017.

4th India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group Meeting on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 3 May 2017.

General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) visited Kazakhstan from 1-4 August 2017.

Lt. Gen Talgat Mukhtarov, Deputy Minister of Defence of Kazakhstan visited India from 6-8 November 2017 to discuss cooperation between two armed forces in the field of UN peacekeeping operations.

The 2nd Joint Exercise on Counter Terrorism 'Prabal Dostyk-2017' between the two Armed Forces was held at Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh) from 02-15 Nov 2017.

A three member delegation led by Deputy Chairman of National Security Committee of Kazakhstan Mr. Daulet Ergozhin visited India from 22-24 November 2017.

The fifth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation is scheduled to take place in Astana in February 2018.

## **Kyrgyz Republic**

EAM met Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev on the sidelines of 72nd session of UNGA in New York.

Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh led Indian delegation to the Meeting of Emergency Departments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states held in Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyz Republic on 24 August 2017.

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Kyrgyzstan on 17 April 2017. He also participated in the international conference on de-radicalization held in Bishkek on 28-29 September 2017.

India-Kyrgyz Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 20 December 2017.

An 11-member team consisting mainly of Members of Parliament from Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyz Republic visited India from 23-30 July 2017 for undergoing training in special capacity building programme held in the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, New Delhi.

Two high level defence delegations viz. 15-member NDC delegation and 15-member Higher Command Course delegation visited Kyrgyz Republic in August and September 2017.

Chief of General Staff (CGS) of Kyrgyzstan Rayimberdi Duishenbiyev visited India from 26 November - 1 December 2017.

Government of India gifted Bhabhatron-II and Imagin Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment equipment to the National Central of Oncology, Bishkek.

An Indian Textile exhibition named "Vastram" was held in Bishkek from 19 July- 2 August 2017.

Kyrgyz Republic extended its electronic visa facility to Indian nationals from 1 September 2017 for Tourism & Business purposes.

## Tajikistan

3rd meeting of the India-Tajikistan Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in Dushanbe on 14 & 15 June 2017.

Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan Mr. Nematullo Hikmatullozoda visited India in June 2017 for the 9th Session of the India-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Joint Working Group meeting on Indo-Tajik Defence Cooperation was held in New Delhi from 29 - 31 August 2017.

60 Tajik experts trained in various Space technology related courses at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) in Dehradun.

A MOU for setting up of a Hindi-cum-Urdu Chair at Tajik National University in Dushanbe was signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Tajik National University on 13 October 2017 in Dushanbe.

Four India Study Centres were established during the period under report in Tajik National University, Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, Tajik Institute of Languages and a College in Panjakent City.

## Turkmenistan

President of Turkmenistan had a telephonic conversation with President Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 22 December 2017.

During his transit through Ashgabat in June 2017, Shri Arun Jaitley, the then Defence Minister met with Col. General Yailym Berdiyev, Secretary of the National Security Council & Defence Minister of Turkmenistan.

Dr. Arvind Gupta, the Deputy National Security Adviser visited Turkmenistan from 28-31 May 2017.

Shri Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff visited Ashgabat from 4-6 August 2017.

Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers & Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan visited New Delhi on 13 August 2017 when he co-chaired, along with EAM, the 6th Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC).

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas & and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship participated in the Inauguration Ceremony of the V Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) on 17 September 2017 in Ashgabat. A 206 strong Indian sports contingent participated in the games.

Shri M.J.Akbar, MoS for External Affairs visited Ashgabat from 14-15 November 2017 to participate at the VII Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII). On the side lines of the Conference, he had bilateral meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers & Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Mr. Rahsid Meredov and with Defence Minister and Secretary, National Security Council Colonel General Yaliym Berdiyev.

Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Turkmenistan Colonel Gochiev Nurgeldi visited India from 5-11 November 2017.

Counter Terrorism training was imparted to 19 Turkmen Armed Forces personnel during 2017 at Subathu, Himachal Pradesh.

## Ukraine

President of Ukraine in a telephonic conversation congratulated President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind on his election as the President.

Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Pavlo Klimkin visited India from 5-7 October 2017.



*External Affairs Minister meets Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in New Delhi on 5 October 2017.*

A Ukrainian trade mission led by Deputy Ministers of Economy and Trade and Agriculture participated in 'Annapoorna World of Food India 2017' in September 2017 and had B2B meetings in New Delhi and Mumbai.

Deputy Minister of Education & Science of Ukraine Mr. Roman Greba visited India to participate in 13th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2017 in Delhi in November 2017 and held meetings with Secretary (Higher Education) and Secretary (Science & Technology).

Bilateral trade continued to be on upward trajectory (18% growth) with Ukraine's edible oil/seed exports to India touching US\$ 2 billion mark.

More than 4000 new Indian students joined the Ukrainian Universities for pursuing education particularly in medicine, totaling 12000 Indian students in Ukraine.

Government of Ukraine introduced visa on arrival facility for Indian citizens for tourism and business purposes from April 2017.

India Film "Winner" was shot in Kyiv and Lviv. Two other film shooting projects have been completed.

6th session of Inter-Governmental Commission is scheduled to be held in Kyiv on 5 February 2018.

## **Uzbekistan**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Astana on 9 June 2017 and agreed to step up bilateral relations in all areas, especially trade and investment.

A high level multi-sectoral delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov visited India from 21-23 August 2017.

Minister of State for External Affairs General (Dr.) (Retd.) V. K. Singh visited Uzbekistan as head of the Indian delegation for attending the Conference on "Central Asia – Shared Past and Common Future Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Mutual Prosperity" held on 10-11 November 2017 in Samarkand.

Deputy National Security Advisor Dr. Arvind Gupta visited Uzbekistan from May 31 May – 2 June 2017 and held talks

with Uzbek National Security Service Deputy Chief Mr. Mukhtar Niazov, Defence Minister Mr. Kabul Berdiev, and the Director, Executive Committee, SCO Regional Anti-terrorist Structure Mr. Yevgeniy Sysoyev.

Deputy National Security Advisor, Shri R.N. Ravi attended the 31st SCO-RATS Council Meeting in Beijing on 17 September 2017.

Minister of State for Law & Justice, Shri P. P. Chaudhary led a delegation to Uzbekistan for the 5th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Justice Ministers on 20 October 2017.

Ms Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary, Department of Justice and

Shri Suresh Chandra, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs attended the SCO Justice Ministry Experts' Meeting on 10-11 August 2017 in Tashkent.

Under the Defence Cooperation Plan for 2017-18 Indian defence delegations visited Uzbekistan in the areas of medicine (3-5 July 2017), defence management (22-28 October 2017), teaching methodologies (1 & 2 November 2017) and high-altitude warfare (29 October–4 November 2017). Uzbek delegations visited India in the areas of high altitude warfare (4-9 September 2017) and counter insurgency & jungle warfare (20-23 November 2017) as also the facilities of Bharat Electronics Limited (21-23 November 2017).

## The Gulf and West Asia

### Gulf

India has civilisational links and overarching relationships with the countries in the Gulf region which are in its extended neighborhood. India's bilateral friendly ties with the Gulf countries are deep-rooted in shared history and have been constantly nourished through growing multidimensional cooperation and vibrant people-to-people engagement. The Gulf region remains a top priority region for us, being one of India's largest trading partners with bilateral trade over US\$ 110 billion in 2016-17; major source of India's crude oil and gas requirements; host to the over 9 million strong and growing Indian expatriate community; and source of about US\$ 35 billion annual remittances.

The growing political engagement with the countries in the region continued during the year starting with the successful state visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January 2017. Among the other key high-level political interactions were the visits to India by the Omani Foreign Affairs Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah on 2&3 April 2017, Mr. Abdulmalik Abduljalil Al-Mekhlafi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen from 10-12 July 2017, Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Ibrahim Al Jaafari from 24-26 July 2017 and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani on 25-26 August 2017. On the Indian side, Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs visited Iraq on 12-14 July 2017, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar visited UAE for bilateral engagement on 10-11 April 2017, led the Hajj Goodwill Delegation to Jeddah from 28 August - 3 September 2017 and a delegation for the 3rd Joint Ministerial Commission (JCM) Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Kuwait on 18-20 September 2017.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met with the foreign ministers of GCC countries in September 2017 on the sidelines of the 72nd session of UN General Assembly at New York.

Growing ties with the region were reflected in the International Yoga day being celebrated across the region as well as Saudi Arabia recognising 'Yoga' as a sport. India is also invited and accorded 'Guest of Honour Country' status for the forthcoming Janadriyah Festival in Saudi Arabia in February 2018 and the annual cultural festival of UAE, the Abu Dhabi Festival to be held in March 2018.

### Bahrain

India continues to enjoy excellent, deep rooted and historic ties with Bahrain, and presence of a sizeable Indian community in Bahrain remains the cornerstone of India's bilateral relations with Bahrain.

On the sidelines of UNGA at New York, Bahrain's Foreign Minister met with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj on 19 September 2017 and reviewed bilateral relations. During the year, Bahrain ratified the 'Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons' signed in January 2016 during the visit of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj to Bahrain.

A 4-member youth delegation from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sport of India visited Bahrain to participate in the 9th International Youth Conference (IYC) focusing on the role of youth in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held at Bahrain from 24-28 April 2017.

Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad, Deputy President of Supreme Council for Youth visited India from 21-25 April 2017 for participation in the 5th BRAVE MMA Championship held in Mumbai. Under the patronage of Princess Sabika, Art Bahrain Across Borders (ArtBAB) hosted an art exhibition at New Delhi on 10 October 2017. Embassy of India in Manama inaugurated the 'Festival of India in Bahrain' on 25 November 2017.

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) organized Bahrain-India Business Forum 2017 at Manama on 6 April 2017 that focused on enhancement of trade and investment ties between Bahrain and India.

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Bahrain on 8-9 December 2017 to participate in the 13th Regional Security Summit of the Annual



Manama Dialogue. During the visit, he also held bilateral discussions with Bahrain's leadership and addressed a business roundtable of prominent business persons in Bahrain.

## Iran

This year saw an intense engagement with Iran at both political and functional level. In 2017 there were several important bilateral visits both incoming and outgoing as well as interactions between high level dignitaries in multilateral forums.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj visited Iran on her way back from Sochi, Russia on 2 December 2017. During the visit EAM met her counterpart Dr Javad Zarif and reviewed the progress in bilateral relations. EAM also met Dr Javad Zarif on the sidelines of 72nd session of UNGA in New York on 23 September 2017.

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport Highways and Shipping led the Indian delegation at the inauguration ceremony of Dr Hassan Rouhani, re-elected President of Iran on 5 August 2017. Shri Gadkari also carried a letter from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed to President Rouhani. During the visit Minister Shri Gadkari called on First Vice President Dr. Jehengiri and met his counterpart Dr. Abbas Akhoundi, Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Iran. During this visit the implementation of Chabahar port, Trilateral Agreement, International North South Transport Corridor, Chabahar Zahedan Railway link and Chabahar Free Zone projects were discussed.

Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan, MoS for Shipping led the Indian delegation at the inauguration ceremony of Chabahar port on 3 December 2017. In the ceremony the Shahid Behesti Port (Phase I of the Chabahar port) was inaugurated by Dr Hassan Rouhani, President of Iran. During the visit of Shri Radhakrishnan, the second trilateral Meeting of Transport Ministers of India, Iran and Afghanistan was also held. In the second trilateral meeting, the Transport Ministers expressed satisfaction at the completion of the ratification process of the Trilateral Agreement by India and Afghanistan and also welcomed steps taken towards ratification by Majlis, Iran.

On 29 October 2017, External Affairs Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan (through video link) and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Iran, New Delhi flagged off the first consignment of wheat shipment to Afghanistan through Chabahar port. This is part of an earlier commitment to Afghanistan to provide 110,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan on grant basis. The shipment of wheat through Chabahar port

was a landmark moment as it will pave the way for full operationalisation of Chabahar port as an alternative, robust and reliable connectivity route to Afghanistan.

India Port Global Limited (IPGL), a Consortium of JNPT and Kandla Port, the Indian Special Purpose Vehicle implementing the Chabahar port project issued Letter of Award for supply of port equipments (worth US\$ 29 million) in October 2017 for Chabahar port. This is part of India's commitment to equip the two terminals at the Chabahar port with cost of US\$ 85.21 million, as per the Chabahar Commercial contract signed during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Iran in May 2016.

Foreign Secretary Dr S Jaishankar visited Iran on 16-17 May 2017 for 14th round of Foreign Office Consultations. During his visit the Foreign Secretary also called on Dr. Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, Minister of Oil of Iran and had meeting with Mr. Jaber Ansari, then Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran. During the visit all aspects of bilateral relations were discussed especially on the follow up of the decisions taken during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Tehran, Iran on May 2016.

The visit of Mr. Kheirollah Khademi, Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development and Chairman, Construction Development Transport Infrastructures Company of Iran took place in August-September 2017. Mr. Khademi had discussions in Ministries of Railways, Shipping and Commerce on enhancing cooperation in the area of development of transport infrastructure particularly Chabahar-Zahedan railway link.

India is second largest buyer of Iranian crude oil. During 2016-17 India imported 27.14 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude worth US\$ 8.91 billion. Discussions between Indian Consortium led by ONGC Videsh and National Iranian Oil Corporation regarding gas field Farzad B continued. Since India and Iran have natural complementarity in the area of energy resources such cooperation could be mutually beneficial for both countries.

In 2016-17 India Iran bilateral trade stood at US\$ 12.899 billion which is an increase of 42% compared to the last year. CII opened its office in Tehran, Iran in September 2017. Government has exempted Oil Marketing companies/refineries from withholding Tax on 23 February 2017, this step would help boost India-Iran trade. Special Vostro Accounts of Iranian banks held in UCO Bank have been converted into General Vostro Account.

Mr. Abujar Ebahimi Torkman, Head of Islamic Culture and relations Organisation and Mr. Mohsen Ghomi, Hojjateslam, Deputy of International Division of office of Supreme Leader led a delegation to India in October 2017. The delegation met Minister of Minority Affairs and exchanged views on enhancing bilateral cooperation while stressing upon the importance of dialogue between civilizations to tackle the menace of terrorism and extremism.

The Bedil conference (named after poet Badil Behalvi) was organized at Aligarh Muslim University in March 2017. This was attended by Dr Haddad Adel, Former Speaker and the current President of Farangistan, Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature.

Dr Abbas Akhouni, Minister of Road and Urban Development, Iran is expected to visit India on 10-11 January 2018. The Iranian minister will meet his counterpart Minister of Road Transport Highways and Shipping, Minister of Railways. The delegation of the Iranian Minister is also

expected to have talks with delegation at Commerce Ministry. Enhancement of regional connectivity through the Chabahar port is the topic of discussions.

The meeting of India Iran Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade relations is expected to take place on 30-31 January 2018. The Indian side will be led by Commerce Secretary. All bilateral issues related to trade will be discussed in this meeting of JWG.

## Iraq

Iraq shares long historical and civilisational ties with India and is an important partner for India's energy security. It has consistently been among the largest suppliers of crude oil to India for last many years.

On the invitation from EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr. (Dr.) Ibrahim Al Jaafari visited India from 24-26 July 2017. He had delegation level talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.



*Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs,  
General (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd) to Erbil, Iraq on 12 July 2017.*

General (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.), MoS for External Affairs visited Iraq on 12-14 July 2017. He met the Iraqi Foreign Minister and congratulated the Iraqi Government on liberation of Mosul from the Islamic State group (IS). He visited Baghdad again from 24-31 October 2017 to follow up on the whereabouts of the 39 Indians.

From the Iraqi side, Mr Humam Al Hamoudi, Deputy Speaker of Iraqi Parliament visited India in April 2017 and held meetings with MoS General (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd.), MoS for External Affairs and MoS (Independent Charge) for Culture & Tourism, Shri Mahesh Sharma. Minister of Health and Environment of Iraq, Dr. (Mrs.) Adeelah Hammoud Hussein

also visited India from 11-14 October 2017. She met Smt Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and visited AIIMS, Medanta -The Medicity (Gurugram) and some other health related institutions in Delhi.

India continued to play an important role in capacity building of Iraqi youth. The number of ITEC slots for Iraq has been increased to 175 in 2017-18 from 125 in 2016-17. A group of 25 young Iraqi Diplomats are scheduled to undergo a special training course at Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi on 15-25 January 2018.

India remained a preferred destination for Iraqis to undergo

medical treatment and higher education for the people of Iraq. The third International Day of Yoga was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm at Hotel Babylon in Baghdad on 17 June 2017.

Consulate General of India in Erbil which started functioning in August 2016 expanded to its full strength during the year.

## Israel

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook an historic, first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Israel from 4-6 July 2017, during which the relationship was upgraded to a strategic level with focused cooperation in agriculture and water.



*Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu visiting the Danziger Flower Farm- a leading facility for R&D in plant varieties, in Tel Aviv, Israel on 4 July 2017.*

The year 2017 marked the 25th anniversary of India-Israel diplomatic relations. This year was celebrated with a variety of events in Israel in important spheres. Seven Agreements/MoUs and a Work Programme in the fields of R&D innovation, water, agriculture and space, were signed during this historic visit. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also laid wreath on Haifa Memorial commemorating the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers in liberation of Haifa during World War-I. On invitation of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, extended during the visit, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu will be visiting India in January 2018.

The first meeting of the newly established India-Israel CEOs Forum also took place on 6 July 2017 in Tel Aviv with the participation of leading CEOs from both sides. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also addressed a gathering of around 8000 PIOs and Indian nationals at the Tel Aviv Exhibition grounds.

The first official all-party Parliamentary delegation from India, comprising of 11 MPs, led by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri S. S. Ahluwalia, visited Israel from 3-6 June 2017.

On the sidelines of the 22nd World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, met Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources of Israel, Yuval Steinitz, on 12 July 2017 and decided to establish a Joint Working Group for cooperation in oil and gas.

As part of the regular exchanges between the armed forces of the two countries, the Indian Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, visited Israel in June 2017 in his capacity as Chairman of COSC while the Israeli Chief of Defence Intelligence Gen. Halevi and Chief of Ground Forces, Kobi Barak, visited India in October/November 2017. The last round of Defence Secretary level talks in the JWG on Defence were held in Israel in April 2017. Three Indian naval ships from the Western Fleet including INS Mumbai, INS Trishul and INS Aditya made a port call in Haifa in May 2017. A contingent of 45 Indian Air Force personnel, along with a C-130J Hercules aircraft, participated for the first time in the Israeli biennial, multilateral Blue Flag Exercise in Southern Israel from 2-16 November 2017 along with eight other air forces. Air Marshal Arora, DG Air Operations also visited Israel on the occasion.

A series of cultural events took place during the year to mark

the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations including celebration of the third International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2017 at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv; a concert by Maestro Amjad Ali Khan in Jerusalem Theater on 7 November 2017; visit of a delegation from Sahitya Akademi from 5-10 November 2017 and; participation of India at the fifth International Photography Exhibition in Tel Aviv, with an exhibition of photographs by Raghu Rai, on 23 November 2017.

To mark the culmination of the celebrations of establishment of twenty five years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel, Prime Minister Netenhyu visited India in January 2018. He held wide ranging discussions with the Indian leadership. PM Netenhyu also visited Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Nine MoUs/Agreements/Letters of Intent were signed during the visit.

## Jordan

India and Jordan continued to share warm and cordial ties. King Abdullah on 8 August 2017 sent a cable to Rashtrapatiiji congratulating him on taking presidential oath.

An 8-member NSG team participated in the Annual Warrior Competition held in Amman during 30 April - 4 May 2017.

Chairman of the Jordan Investment Commission Mr. Thabet Elwir led a high-level business delegation to India in May 2017 and held business interactions at FICCI.

The 10th Session of India Jordan Trade and Economic Committee (JTEC) was held in India on 4 & 5 July 2017. Minister of Trade and Industry of Jordan, Yarub Qudah led the Jordanian delegation. A new Agreement on Economic & Trade Cooperation was signed between Jordanian Minister of Trade Industry & Supply and Minister of Commerce & Industry of India.

The Mission celebrated ITEC Day on 31 October 2017 with Chief of Investment Commission of Jordan and Minister of State for Investment Affairs Mr. Muhannad Shehadeh presiding over as the Chief Guest.

On 25 September 2017, the Mission organized an event to commemorate the 100th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya who has been our nation's inspiration.

Joint Secretary(CT) took part in the Aqaba Process Meeting on West Africa in Jordan from 2-3 December 2017.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi visited India for the

first time from 27-28 December 2017. He met External Affairs Minister (MoS) Smt Sushma Swaraj and Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu.

A four-member Jordanian Armed Forces delegation visited India from 18-21 December 2017 and held meetings with the Defence Ministry officials and visited defence facilities in Pune and Bengaluru.

During his proposed visit to Palestine, Prime Minister Modi will be making a stopover in Jordan on 10 February 2018.

Subsequent to this, King Abdullah II of Jordan is anticipated to visit India from 28 February to 1 March 2018. He is expected to be accompanied by the Queen.

## Kuwait

The historically close, friendly and multifaceted relations between India and Kuwait continued to grow on various fronts. A number of high level bilateral interactions took place during the year. Kuwait continues to be a reliable source of meeting India's energy security needs. Non-oil bilateral trade too continued to grow. The strength of Indian workforce grew by approximately 30,000 making the Indian community in Kuwait the largest expatriate community at 9.5 lakh. However, the recruitment of Indian nurses for work in Kuwait continued to be stalled due to non-resolution of issues relating to corruption and bribery in the recruitment process from both sides.

The 3rd Joint Ministerial Commission (JCM) Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held in Kuwait on 18-20 September 2017 after a long gap of nine years. Indian delegation was led by MoS Shri M.J. Akbar while the Kuwaiti delegation was led by their Deputy Prime Minister & Finance Minister, Mr Anas Khalid Al-Saleh. During the meeting, the whole spectrum of bilateral relations between India and Kuwait was reviewed and a roadmap was prepared for future cooperation.

The Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited India on a private visit for medical check up from 25 June - 4 July 2017.

A business delegation of more than 10 Indian EPC companies from the Progress Harmony & Development (PHD) Chamber of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi, visited Kuwait from 22-23 October 2017. The delegation represented various sectors such as Infrastructure, Mining, Oil & Gas, Transport, Water & Sanitation, Energy, Civil Construction and Housing.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) was awarded a pipeline contract worth almost US\$ 262.3 million (1700 crore approx) by Kuwait Oil Company for laying a new crude transit line.

A defence delegation led by the Chief of Army Staff of Kuwait visited India from 17-21 September 2017. The delegation met with India's Defence Minister. A delegation of 15 Higher Command Course officers from the Army War College Mhow visited Kuwait from 25-29 September 2017.

## Lebanon

Since the election of President Michel Aoun in October 2016, after a gap of two and half years, a new National Government under Prime Minister Saad Hariri was constituted in the country. Subsequently, the Parliament's term was extended for the third time until 20 May 2018. Shortly before completion of one year of the government, Prime Minister Hariri announced his shock resignation on 4 November 2017, and later on 22 November 2017, he postponed handing in his resignation upon the request of President Michel Aoun.

Bilaterally, there have been some notable developments in recent months, including the award of operation and maintenance of two power plants to OEG, a Chennai-based company which has deployed 50 engineers at these plants; pre-qualification of ONGC Videsh Limited [OVL] as an operator in the latest licensing round for offshore gas blocks; steady increase in the number of Lebanese professionals and businessmen visiting India; and plans of Lebanese companies such as Future Pipes and Dar Al Handsah to expand their existing operations in India.

Total volume of trade between India and Lebanon during January-September 2017 was US\$ 181 million. The Embassy, along with the Export promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) participated in the 'Art of Living' trade fair held in Beirut in November 2017.

Celebrations of third International Day of Yoga, Gandhi Jayanti and Sardar Patel Jayanti witnessed enthusiastic participation by local community from various quarters. 'India Days' celebrated at various schools and universities also saw large participation. The Embassy works closely with several local organizations, most notably Lebanese-Indian Friendship Parliamentary Committee [LIFPC] and the Association for Development of Lebanese-Indian Relations [ADLIR], in further strengthening people-to-people contacts and cooperation in diverse sectors.

A delegation led by Lt. General Ajae Kumar Sharma, YSM, SM, Director General Staff Duties, Ministry of Defence, visited Lebanon from 7-10 January 2018 for discussions with Indian Battalion (INDBATT) and United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) officials.

## Oman

India and Oman have historically enjoyed close relations, comprising trade and cultural exchanges, spanning over five millennia. Since establishment of diplomatic ties in 1955,

the historical relations have evolved into a strategic partnership. This partnership continued to expand in 2017-18. Visit of Omani Foreign Affairs Mr Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah to India on 2-3 April 2017, provided further impetus to the excellent bilateral relations. During the visit, official level discussions were held with External Affairs Minister covering entire spectrum of important issues. Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Mr. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah also called on our Vice President and Prime Minister.



*Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman and External Affairs Minister hold delegation level talks in New Delhi on 3 April 2017.*

Defence relations between India and Oman continued to expand further. The 9th Meeting of India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee was held in Delhi from 17-18 April 2017. Visit of an Indian Defence Delegation in August to Oman helped in further strengthening the strong defence relations between the two countries. The first visit of an Indian Navy Submarine to the port of Duqm was an enriching experience for the crew. The Commanding Officer of Royal Oman Police and Coast Guard visited India in October 2017 to enhance the cooperation between the Coast Guards of the two countries.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was commemorated at the Indian Embassy, in association with various Yoga Organisations in Oman on 21 June 2017 in Muscat and in other key cities of Oman such as Salalah, Sohar and Sur. In Muscat, around 5000 persons joined the Yoga Session.

The presence of large Indian community in Oman has been an important facet of India-Oman relations. The number of Indians working and living in Oman has continued to grow, which reached 7, 83,000 in July 2017. The sixth meeting of the India-Oman Joint Working Group on Manpower was held in Muscat in August 2017, which provided an opportunity to discuss and review the entire spectrum of issues impacting on working and living conditions of Indians in Oman.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Oman in February 2018 on a state visit, his first visit to the country as the Prime Minister.

## Palestine

The Second Round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Palestine was held on 17 April 2017.

Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine paid his third State Visit to India from 14-17 May 2017. This was the fifth visit of President Abbas to India in the last 12 years underlying the historically close and strong relations between the leadership and people of both countries from the times of India's freedom struggle. President Abbas met Rashtrapatiji and Prime Minister during this visit while Vice President and

External Affairs Minister called on the Palestinian President. During this visit, both sides signed Visa Exemption Agreement for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports, and four MoUs on Co-operation in the fields of Information Technology and Electronics, Health and Medicine, Agriculture and allied sectors and Youth Affairs and Sports.



*Prime Minister, President and President of the State of Palestine, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas at the Ceremonial Reception at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on 16 May 2017.*

As part of strengthening people to people relations between both countries, and first such exchanges, a 50-member Palestinian youth delegation visited India from 19-26 May 2017 and a return visit by 29-member Indian youth delegation to Palestine from 14-21 September 2017.

The Government of India increased the slots for Palestinian nationals under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme from 100 to 150 from this year.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Palestine in February 2018, the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister.

## **Qatar**

India-Qatar cooperation in diverse sectors has been growing within an excellent framework provided by historic relations and substantive engagement, including at the highest levels of the two governments. The approximate 6,95,000 strong, diverse and highly-regarded Indian community, which constitutes the largest expatriate community in the country, is making significant contributions to Qatar's progress and in nurturing the bonds of deep-rooted friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries.

On the economic side, India shares vital partnership with Qatar in the energy sector. India's bilateral trade with Qatar in 2016-17 was US\$ 8.4 billion, out of which US\$ 787 million constitute India's exports to Qatar and US\$ 7.6 billion constitute Indian imports. During the current year, the bilateral trade stands at US\$ 3.6 billion from April-August 2017.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani paid a visit to New Delhi, India on 25-26 August 2017. He was hosted by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. The two leaders held delegation-level talks on 26 August 2017, during which bilateral issues, including the welfare and well-being of Indian expatriates in Qatar, were discussed.

## **Saudi Arabia**

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial and friendly relations reflecting the centuries old economic and socio-cultural ties. As a host to over 3.2 million Indian expatriates, the Kingdom is a vital partner in the region. The relations have witnessed a major upswing in the past decade. The historic visit of King Abdullah

to India in 2006 resulted in signing of 'Delhi Declaration' while the reciprocal visit by Prime Minister Shri (Dr.) Manmohan Singh to Saudi Arabia in 2010 resulted in signing of the 'Riyadh Declaration' and elevating the level of bilateral engagement to 'Strategic Partnership'. The visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Riyadh from April 2-3 2016 acted as a catalyst and added impetus to India's growing engagement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Steady progress has been made in political, economic, defence and security cooperation in 2017-18 with regular exchange of high level visits.

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar led the Hajj Goodwill Delegation to Jeddah from 28 August - 3 September 2017, and held bilateral meetings with Prince Khalid Al Faisal, Governor of Makkah & Advisor to King Salman & Mohammed Salih Bentin, Minister of Hajj & Umrah.

As a testimony of the growing relationship, India has been invited and accorded the status of 'Guest of Honour' country in the upcoming Janadriyah festival to be held in Saudi Arabia in February 2018.

As regards growing economic ties, Saudi Arabia today is India's 4th largest trade partner (after China, USA and UAE) and is a major source of energy as India imports around 19% of its crude oil requirement from the Kingdom. The value of India-Saudi Arabia bilateral trade during 2016-17 was US\$ 25.079 billion. During this period, India's imports from Saudi Arabia reached US\$ 19.94 billion whereas India's exports to Saudi Arabia reached US\$ 5.13 billion. The current bilateral trade (April-August 2017) is valued US\$ 10.21 billion.

Four Indian Companies participated in the 'Saudi Health Exhibition' held under the aegis of Saudi Ministry of Health from 8-12 May 2017 in Riyadh. Three Indian companies participated in the 'Saudi Elenex/Aircon Exhibitions' in Riyadh from 14-16 May 2017 organized by the Saudi Electricity Company and Saudi Standards Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO). Seven Indian companies led by APEDA participated in the 'Saudi Agro & Food Expo', displaying a wide range of Indian Agro products. Indian pavilion was one among the 9 official pavilions in the Expo, which took place from 8-11 October 2017.

In the field of defence cooperation, three Indian warships INS Mumbai, INS Trishul and INS Aditya visited Jeddah Port on a good-will visit from 16-19 May 2017. Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) SAMARTH visited Al Jubail Port, on a three day good-will visit from November 8-11 2017. A 12-member Saudi delegation took part in the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) on 29-30 November 2017 in

New Delhi.

On the occasion of the third International Day of Yoga on 21 May 2017, Embassy of India organized a series of events for the Diplomatic corps, school students and the Indian Community. Two renowned female Saudi Yoga trainers Ms Noura Al Wayeli & Ms Sara Amoudi demonstrated popular Yoga Asanas. Another renowned female Saudi Yoga trainer Ms Nouf Al Marwaai participated in the International Conference on Yoga in New Delhi on 10-11 October 2017. Meanwhile, Saudi Ministry of Trade & industry approved (November 2017) Yoga, listing it under the category of 'sports activities'.

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj is scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia in February 2018 on her first official visit to the country. She would lead a delegation for India's participation in the prestigious Janadriyah festival where India has been accorded 'Guest of Honour' status. She would also hold bilateral discussions with the top leadership of Saudi Arabia.

## 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 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 announced US\$ 6 million (US\$ 3 million each for medicines and food items) as humanitarian aid to Syria during the year. India's cooperation with Syria under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and ICCR Scholarships continued during the year.

As the Syrian crisis entered its 7th year, India's stand on resolution of the crisis continues to be of "Syrian led inclusive process". India supports all peaceful means of resolution of the crisis like Geneva and Astana process.

The Festival of India was celebrated in the cities of Damascus & Latakia involving classical dance performances, Indian film screenings and photo and book exhibitions. Seven Indian companies participated in 59th Damascus International Fair

About 100 Syrian students have benefitted under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and ICCR Scholarships programmes.



Mission celebrated 54th ITEC Day on 21 December 2017 and about 200 people participated in the occasion including some Ministers. The Syrian side appreciated their unique friendship with India, who, as a true friend, had continued to maintain its Embassy in Damascus and supporting the Syrians through ITEC trainings throughout during the crisis.

Indian Government has announced humanitarian aid (food items) to Syria and the Syrian Government has appreciated the initiative of the friendly Government of India. The aid is expected by February - March 2018.

## UAE

The momentum brought in bilateral ties with regular exchange of visits at the highest level was maintained during the year as shortly after the second successive state visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations in 2017, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi accepted an invitation from the President of the UAE to be a keynote speaker at the World Government Summit in the UAE in February 2018. In similar spirit, other high-level visits provided further impetus to the traditionally close and friendly bilateral relations, which stand elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

High-level visits from Indian side to the UAE included visits by

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar from 10-11 April 2017 for bilateral engagement and for addressing UAE Ambassadors' Forum; MoS for Food Processing Industry, Smt Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti from 6-7 August 2017 for promoting World Food India event; MoS Shri M.J. Akbar on 29 October 2017 for co-chairing the second India-UAE Strategic Dialogue, and then on 9 November 2017 for participating in the inauguration ceremony of Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary participated in Sir Bani Yas Forum in the UAE during November 2017.

MoS (Independent Charge) for Ministry of AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yasso Naik led the Indian delegation to the first International conference on AYUSH held in Dubai with the support of Ministry of AYUSH from 9 - 11 November 2017.

From the UAE side, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Anwar Gargash visited India from 9-10 August 2017 for bilateral talks. Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Agriculture, Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi visited India from 29-31 August 2017. Emir of Sharjah, Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi, visited India from 24-26 September 2017. During his visit, he was conferred an honorary degree by the University of Calicut. Mr Zaki Nussaibah, Minister of State in the UAE cabinet attended the 4th India Ideas Conclave 2017 held in Goa from 15-17 December 2017.



*Shri M J Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs meets Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates in New Delhi on 9 August 2017.*

Regular interaction between the leadership of both the countries led to many concrete outcomes particularly in economic cooperation, including ADIA of UAE entering into an agreement with NIIF to invest US \$1 billion in India's Infrastructure sector.

While India has been accorded the 'Guest Country' status at the World Government Summit in Dubai during February 2018, invitation has also been extended for Indian participation as 'Guest of Honour' in UAE's prestigious month-long annual cultural festival, the Abu Dhabi Festival to be held in March 2018.

India continued to provide assistance to distressed Indians in Dubai and the Northern Emirates. Air-tickets were provided under ICWF to more than 335 people and mortal remains of more than 32 people were repatriated on a free of cost basis with the help of Air India. Special emphasis was given to repatriate

distressed Indian sailors and more than 225 such sailors were sent back between April and November 2017.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit UAE in February 2018 on a state visit. During the visit, he is also scheduled to address the World Government Summit and address Arab CEOs. The visit is likely to further strengthen our political and trade engagements with the UAE.

## 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 Embassy of India to Yemen has been temporarily relocated to Djibouti since 14 April 2015. The Embassy has been continuing its assistance to Indian nationals in Yemen.



*External Affairs Minister meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Yemen, Abdulmalik Abduljalil Al-Mekhlafi, in New Delhi on 11 July 2017.*

Mr. Abdulmalik Abduljalil Al-Mekhlafi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen visited India from 10-12 July 2017.

In its support to the people of Yemen distressed by the ongoing civil war in the country, India is providing medical assistance worth about US\$ 1 million to Republic of Yemen in response to a request from the Yemeni government. In a token handing over ceremony held on 27 December in New Delhi, MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar presented a box of cholera medicines to Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen Mr. Abdulmalik Abdullah Al-Eryani.

As a part of its commitment to provide humanitarian assistance

to Yemen, India has been a member of the 'Friends of Yemen' Group. India has earlier extended medical assistance to Yemen in April 2015. Additionally, India provided food assistance in the form of rice and wheat, each worth of US\$ 2 million in August 2012 and March 2013 respectively.

## Arab League

In this period, constructive engagement with Arab League continued. High-level talks continued with the meeting on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2017 of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj with Secretary General of Arab League Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit in New York. India participated at various Arab League Sessions in Cairo.

## Africa

### Algeria

The Embassy of India in Algiers organized a marketing event for Algerian tourist operators and travel agents on 5 April 2017. More than 12 Algerian companies from Algiers and other cities of Algeria participated in the event. The Embassy briefed the Algerian companies on facilities given on visa to tourist operators for group tourists.

36 Indian companies participated in business exhibitions organised in Algeria in different sectors: Textile Expo which was held from 2-5 April 2017 in Oran; Agro Food Fair, Djazagro was held from 10-13 April 2017; International Fair for Construction, BATIMATEC, was held from 23-27 April 2017 in Algiers; International Trade Fair from 8-13 May 2017 in SAFEX, Algiers; International Pharmaceutical Fair, Maghreb Pharma Expo from 3-5 October 2017 was attended by 25 companies; and International Agriculture and Breeding Fair from 10-13 October 2017, Algiers.

Indian Multinational Dodsal won a contract worth US\$ 1.1 billion for executing a project in South of Algeria for Algerian Oil Company Sonatrach.

Six Algerian companies participated in exhibitions/fairs/Buyer Seller Meeting held in New Delhi from 14-16 May 2017, organised by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai; Algerian dress designer Mr. Karim Kadid attended Textiles India from 30 June - 2 July 2017 organised by the Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council in Gandhinagar; CPHI Pharmaceutical Exhibition in Mumbai from 27-30 November 2017. A delegation composed of doctors, private clinics and public hospitals visited the Respiratory Crossroads 2017 at New Delhi from 2-5 November 2017 organised by Cipla Ltd.

A 5-member Odissi dance group visited Algeria from 16-21 September 2017 on the occasion of 70th anniversary of Independence. The group led by Ms. Radhika Samson performed in front of large number of appreciative Algerian audience in 4 cities, Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Setif.

EAM and Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel discussed matters of mutual interest on the sidelines of 72nd Session of United Nations General Assembly in New York on 23 September 2017.

The Embassy promoted Paryatan Diwas during the International Bazar of Algiers, held on 21 October 2017 at the Opera of Algiers. Tourism videos were shown and tourism magazines in Arabic, French and English were distributed to visitors.

### Angola

India and Angola have long standing, close and friendly relations. India is the third largest trading partner of Angola with cooperation in the energy sector forming the bedrock of the relationship. 3.5% of India's oil imports are from Angola (it has maintained its position as the second largest exporter of crude oil to India from sub-Saharan Africa). Angola has consistently supported India's candidates to various international bodies. It supported India's candidature to the ICJ (International Court of Justice).

Bilateral ties continued to be strengthened with several ministerial delegation visits to India. The Minister of Planning and Territorial Development, Mr. Job Graca visited India to attend the African Development Bank (AfDB) meeting from 22-25 May 2017 in Ahmedabad. The Minister of Economy, Mr. Abrahão Gourgel, was in India on a three-day visit from 13-16 June 2017 accompanied by a high level delegation comprising Secretaries of State in the areas of Agriculture, Industry, Geology & Mining and Transport sectors and the Deputy Governors of Bengo, Huambo, Huila and Zaire provinces. The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in association with Angola Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEX) organized a four day workshop on 19-22 September 2017. In order to provide for a regular and structured cross-sectoral dialogue between the two countries, an Agreement setting up the India-Angola Joint Commission was signed on 30 January 2017. The Angola-India Chamber of

Commerce and Industry was inaugurated on 8 October 2017 in Luanda. The Chamber, in association with the Embassy of India, has been promoting closer commercial ties between Angola and Indian entrepreneurs. The establishment of an ICCR English Chair in a University/institution in Angola has been approved. The Angolan side has been requested to locate a suitable university for the purpose.

## Benin

India's relations with Benin have gained in substance following the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in October 2015 and also through developmental co-operation extended to Benin. President of Benin Patrice Talon led a 13-member delegation including Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economy, and Planning, on his first visit to India to attend AfDB Annual meetings held in Gandhinagar from 22-25 May 2017. He met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and

discussed ways and means of forging greater cooperation between the two countries. He showed his keenness to enhance economic content to the relationship, and also expressed the confidence that the bilateral trade between the two countries can be increased to US\$ 1 billion in 2018 compared to US\$ 700 million registered in 2016-17. Under the ITEC programme, Benin nationals are attending programmes in civilian as well as defence training institutions, with the number of trainees in the latter increasing two-fold to 29 personnel last year. Benin is a beneficiary of ongoing development cooperation through two Lines of Credit, one in bilateral context of US\$ 42.61 million for up gradation of water supply schemes in 69 villages and the second through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for Rural Electrification in Benin amounting to US\$20 million. Benin has signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Ratification is awaited. Benin also supported India's candidature to the ICJ.



*Prime Minister meets Patrice Talon, President of Benin on the sidelines of 52nd Annual Meeting of African Development Banks in Gandhinagar on 23 May 2017.*

## Botswana

India and Botswana continued to enjoy warm and cordial relations. Botswana supported India in various elections to multilateral organisations such as ITLOS in June 2017;

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) June 2017; Executive Board of UNESCO in November 2017 as also the ICJ in November 2017.

Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1,384.51 million for the year 2016-17. The main item of trade has been the import of rough

diamonds from Botswana, which constitute 99% of total imports from Botswana (GOI statistics). After South Africa, Belgium and Namibia, India was the 4th largest bilateral trading partner for Botswana for the year 2016 with bilateral trade at US\$ 1,288.7 billion (Botswana statistics).

A 19-member EEPC delegation visited Botswana on 31 March – 1 April 2017. During their visit, a B2B session was inaugurated by Acting Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Mr. Biggie Butale. This was organised by our High Commission with about 120 prospective Botswana companies. It was followed by several individual company-to-company discussions and site visits on 1 April 2017.

A three-member delegation from Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) visited Gaborone in May 2017 for demonstration of Electronic Voting Machines with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), which the Botswana government is planning to procure.

The Government of India (GoI) offered 120 slots to Botswana during the year 2017-18 under the Indian Technical Economic Cooperation Scheme (ITEC) in various fields ranging from Accounting, Management, IT & Communication. Under IAFS mechanism, so far in the year 2017-18, fifteen Botswana candidates availed special training courses. In the year 2017-2018, eight Botswana students benefited from ICCR scholarships.

India has been offering Defence courses slots for friendly foreign countries. During the year 2017-18, a total of ten slots were allocated to Botswana and Botswana nominated candidates for all the courses.

Botswana also utilised one slot at the 64th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) from 27 September - 28 October 2017 conducted by the Foreign Service Institute conducted.

ICCR sponsored cultural troupe “Rangla Punjab” visited Botswana and gave two performances, one in Gaborone and the other in Francistown on 14-15 May 2017 respectively.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated by the Mission by organizing interactive Yoga Sessions on 16 June 2017 at the northern town of Kasane; on 18 June at Francistown and on 25 June in Gaborone.

Two medical teams from Dr. Shroff’s Eye Charity Hospital, New Delhi visited Botswana as part of a Cataract Blindness Eradication Campaign. They conducted more than 1000

surgeries each during the visits to Scottish Livingstone Hospital in Molopolele in June 2017 and to the Sekgoma Memorial Hospital in Serowe, in November 2017. The campaign was organised by the Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness, who have an agreement with Dr. Shroff’s Eye Charity Hospital for deployment of medical personnel for the campaigns.

## Burkina Faso

India and Burkina Faso continued to enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. Burkina Faso signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance on the sidelines of the COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016 and is in process of ratifying it. The 3rd International Day of Yoga was successfully celebrated on 18 June 2017 in Ouagadougou. To mark Freedom@70 celebrations, a performance by an Odissi Dance troupe sponsored by Ministry of Culture was organized on 12 August 2017, which was attended by members of the Indian community, diplomatic corps and other dignitaries. Burkina Faso also supported India’s candidature to the ICJ. Bilateral trade between India and Burkina Faso in 2016-17 totalled US\$ 371.36 million with India’s exports to Burkina Faso amounting to US\$ 114.94 million and imports from Burkina Faso to US\$ 256.42 million.

## Burundi

The first ever Foreign Office Consultations between India and Burundi were held in New Delhi on 25 October 2017.

Burundi was allotted ten ICCR slots for 2017-18. Forty ITEC slots were also allotted to Burundi. Six IAFS training slots have so far been utilized by Burundi.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Bujumbura on 21 June 2017.

From 1 April 2017, India included Burundi in the e-visa facility.

## Cameroon

Bilateral relations with Cameroon have sustained the momentum through high-level visits from Cameroon to India during the year. It has been supportive of India at international fora including its candidature to the ICJ.

Cameroonian Minister of Economy, Mr. Louis Pal Motazé visited India in February 2017 to sign a commercial loan agreement worth US\$ 93.50 million with EXIM Bank for

construction of 225 kV Transmission Line and again in May 2017 to attend the AfDB meeting held in Gandhinagar. Deputy Speaker of Cameroonian Parliament, Mrs. Emilia Mojowa Lifaka visited India in October 2017 and met with Speaker Smt Sumitra Mahajan to seek India's support for her candidature to the post of Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) (which she ultimately won at the election held at CPA Conference held in Dhaka in November 2017). Bilateral trade between India and Cameroon is expected to touch US\$ 1 billion this year, compared to about US\$ 500 million last year, with marginal recovery of the Cameroon economy. Under ITEC programme, Cameroonian nationals utilized 40 slots. On the defence front too, Cameroonian Armed Forces are benefitting from various training programmes in India. In addition, Cameroon utilized 12 slots under C.V. Raman Fellowship scholarship and 2 slots under ICCR scholarship. A Foreign Service Officer from Cameroon attended the 63rd PCFD (Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats) organized by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in April 2017.

## Cape Verde

India and Cape Verde have warm and cordial relations. Cape Verde has been supportive of India at international fora including India's candidature at the ICJ. Minister of Finance, Mr. Olavo Avelino Garcia, participated in the 52nd Annual Meeting of AfDB in Gandhinagar from 22-25 May 2017. In order to increase awareness about business opportunities between the two countries, the Mission in Dakar organized a business event-cum-seminar on Business Opportunities on 3 March 2017 in Praia (Cape Verde) in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Services of Sotavento (CCISS). The 3rd International Day of Yoga was organized in Praia on 25 June 2017 with the participation of about 100 Cape Verdeans, foreigners including diplomats, UN officials and Government officials. For the year 2017-18, 10 slots under ITEC Programme and 9 scholarship slots under ICCR were allotted to Cape Verde.

The Cape Verdean Minister of Infrastructure, Planning and Housing and Minister of Agriculture and Environment are expected to visit India to participate in the 13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership from 25-27 March 2018.

## Central African Republic [CAR]

Relations with CAR continued to be warm and cordial. Line of

Credit (LoC) for US\$ 39.69 million for two hydroelectric projects was signed with Government of CAR during the year. Government of CAR has requested for restructuring of the loans which is under GoI's consideration. CAR has been supportive of India's candidature in all international fora/UN bodies including its candidature to the ICJ.

## Chad

India's bilateral relations with Chad have sustained the momentum following the first-ever visit of the Chadian President to India in October 2015 for the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit, which was followed by Ministerial visits from Chad to India during the year and also through the development partnership. Chadian Minister of Economy, Planning & Development, Mr. Ngueto Tiraina Yambaye, visited India to attend the AfDB meeting held in Gandhinagar from 22-26 May 2017. Chadian Minister of Culture visited India to attend the International Film Festival held in Goa in November 2017. Chad is also emerging as a supplier of crude oil to India, with the imports last year touching US\$ 150 million. Bilateral trade is also expected to touch US\$ 500 million this year with gradual recovery of the Chadian economy this year. Chad has begun to take advantage of courses offered under ITEC programme, ICCR scholarships as well as C.V.Raman Fellowships. A Chadian Foreign Service Officer attended the 63rd PCFD course at Foreign Service Institute (FSI), New Delhi in April 2017. Chad has been supportive of India's candidature in all international fora/UN bodies including its candidature to the ICJ.

## Comoros

The 3rd Edition of the International Day of Yoga was held on 18 June 2017.

Civil works for the 18 MW Heavy Fuel Power Plant Project being built under an Indian Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 41.66 million were progressing well at the allotted site. The bid documents for the construction of the El Maarouf hospital were opened. The bidders included the National Building Construction Company of India, a GoI Enterprise.

Comoros availed of 16 ITEC, six IAFS training slots and one ICCR scholarship.

## Côte d'Ivoire

India's bilateral relations with Côte d'Ivoire (CI) continued to witness significant developments during the year. Vice-

President of CI, Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, along with Minister for Planning, visited Ahmedabad from 20-24 May 2017 to attend the 52nd Annual Meetings of the AfDB. He called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and held bilateral discussions with Finance & Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Vijay Rupani. A LoC agreement worth US\$ 71.4 million to upgrade four

military hospitals in CI and a Framework Agreement confirming CI's entry into the International Solar Alliance (ISA) were signed during the visit. CI supported India's candidature to the ICJ. On 1 January 2018, Côte d'Ivoire entered the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non permanent member for the term 2018-2019.



*Prime Minister meeting the Vice President of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, on the sidelines of the 52nd African Development Bank Annual meeting, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 23 May 2017.*

## **Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC]**

Bilateral relations with DRC continued to deepen during the year. DRC has supported India's candidature in all international/UN bodies including for the ICJ (International Court of Justice). It was one of the first signatories of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA). The country is expected to ratify the Agreement shortly. DRC Minister for International Co-operation, Mr. Kwet Mwan Kwet John, visited New Delhi in June 2017. The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated by our Mission in Kinshasa. The event was attended by government Ministers,

diplomatic corps, youth and members of the Indian Diaspora. The Vice-Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Mr. Léonard She Okitundu Lundula, visited New Delhi from 8-10 November 2017 and held wide-ranging talks with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. During the year, work on GoI supported LoC project worth US\$ 42 million for 9.3 MW Kakobola Hydro-Electric Power Project, Bandundu Province was completed and the project is due to be handed over to the DRC government. A change of contractor for the GoI supported LoC project of US\$ 250 million for 64 MW Hydro-Electric Power Project in Katende, Kasai Occidental Province is under process. India continues to provide capacity

building support to the DRC notably under ITEC (99 training slots allotted in 2017-18 with 103 slots utilized, a unique case of over utilization) and seven ICCR scholarships.

The Feed the Future India Triangular Training Program (FTF-ITT) [Government of India; USAID and 17 partner countries including DRC] has been launched in DRC. Several candidates from DRC have been nominated to various agriculture-related programmes organized by the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE). Pharmexcil, the apex business council of the pharmaceutical companies, is leading a group of more than 30 companies to the DRC in February 2018. Our Mission in Kinshasa, along with Pharmexcil, will be organizing a Buyer-Seller (B2S) meet for enabling the delegation members to meet and discuss business avenues with

the local importers, dealers, distributors, suppliers and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products.

## Djibouti

President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Djibouti on 3 & 4 October 2017. This historic first-ever State visit at the level of HOS/HOG from India to Djibouti elevated bilateral relations to a new level. An agreement to establish regular political consultations between India and Djibouti, at the level of the Foreign Office, was signed in the presence of the two Presidents.

Government of India gave a grant of US\$ 5 million to Djibouti Government for establishment of an SME Incubation Centre.



*President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind during the Tete-a-Tete with Mr. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, the Prime Minister of Djibouti in the VIP Lounge at Djibouti - Ambouli International Airport in October 2017.*

## Egypt

High-level political exchanges continued with the meeting of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Xiamen in September 2017, on the sidelines of BRICS Summit. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs M. J. Akbar visited Egypt and met Egyptian leadership in October 2017. Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Col.

Rajyavardhan Rathore visited Sharm Al-Sheikh in November 2017 and met President Sisi and Egyptian Minister of Sports Khaled Abdel Aziz.

The visit of Egyptian Minister of Defence and Military Production General Sedki Sobhi to India in November 2017 imparted new momentum to bilateral defence ties. General Sobhi met Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, EAM



Smt Sushma Swaraj, NSA and Chiefs of Armed Forces.  
The 4th Joint Committee Meeting on S&T was held in New

Delhi in April 2017. The 2nd ISRO-NARSS JWG was held in Cairo in November 2017.



*External Affairs Minister meets Sedky Sobhy, Defence Minister of Egypt in New Delhi on 14 November 2017.*

Dr. Adel Omar Sherif, Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt attended the 18th International Conference of Chief Justices in Lucknow in November 2017.

Egyptian Minister of Public Business Sector Ashraf El-Sharkawy visited India in November 2017 and met Smt Smriti Irani, Minister of Textiles and also had interaction with Indian textiles companies.

An 11 member high-level delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) comprising of promoters of 6 major Indian companies visited Egypt on 21 & 22 November 2017. There were several exchanges of business delegations from Pharmexcil, IOC Limited, Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, EEPC India and others from the sector of SMEs, tea, tourism, machinery, textiles, meat and IT.

India@70 campaign was launched in April 2017 on Cairo Metro to promote Incredible India and Make in India. Similarly, Incredible India campaign was launched on 12 buses of Cairo Public Transport in September 2017, coinciding with Incredible India Roadshow. An India-Egypt Friendship Cup football match series for Under-16 teams was held in Egypt, for the first time, as part of 'India @ 70' celebrations in April 2017.

104 Egyptians (Apr-Nov 2017) underwent training conducted

under a number of programmes including ITEC, India-Africa Forum Summit and CV Raman Fellowship.

India by the Nile 2017, the annual Indian cultural festival, was held during March-April 2017 in five cities in Egypt. As part of the 155th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a week-long celebration was held in Cairo in May 2017.

The International Day of Yoga 2017 was celebrated with enthusiasm in Cairo, Ismailia and Alexandria in June 2017.

“Paryatan Parv” photography contest and Photo-exhibition were organised in September 2017. Week-long Indian Film Festival showcasing an eclectic mix of contemporary and evergreen Hindi films was held in Cairo and Alexandria during October – November 2017. The Mission also commemorated the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel in October 2017 in Cairo. A number of ICCR sponsored troupes visited Egypt during the period. About 14,000 Egyptian schoolchildren from over 1290 different schools including special needs, participated in the 23rd ‘Glimpses of India’ Painting Competition in October 2017, held simultaneously in 16 Governorates in Egypt for the first time.

7th Joint Defence Committee meeting took place in Cairo from 20-22 January 2018. Indian side was led by Shri Barun Mitra, Additional Secretary in Ministry of Defence.

2nd meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism took place in Cairo from 9-10 January 2018.

India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held in March 2018.

## Equatorial Guinea

India and Equatorial Guinea (EG) have enjoyed warm and friendly relations dating back to pre-independence era of Equatorial Guinea (prior to 1968). In the first-ever ministerial visit to EG, MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar visited Equatorial Guinea on 18 August 2017. He had fruitful discussions with the EG President and Foreign Minister. Three agreements- Establishment of Joint Commission, Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and

Official/Service Passports and Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations were signed. Besides, EG signed the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance and it is in the process of being ratified. As a follow-up to the Ministerial visit, the first-ever Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi on 16 October 2017. The 13-member EG side was led by their Foreign Minister and the Indian side led by MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar. EG has been generally supportive of India in international fora including its candidature for the ICJ. 5 ITEC and 4 ICCR slots have been offered to Equatorial Guinea in 2017-18 including a special English Language Training course for 15 officials of Foreign Ministry of EG. On 1 January 2018, Equatorial Guinea entered the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non permanent member for the term 2018-19.



*External Affairs Minister with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea, Mamady Toure, in New Delhi on 6 November 2017.*

## Ethiopia

President Shri Ramnath Kovind undertook a state visit to Ethiopia from 4-6 October 2017 after a gap of 45 years. The President was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising MoS for Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta and four Members of Parliament. During the visit, President held

bilateral talks with President of Ethiopia, Dr. Mulatu Teshome and Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn. During the visit, President Shri Ramnath Kovind addressed the student and the academic community at the Addis Ababa University, a business event and interacted with the Indian origin and expatriate community of Ethiopia.



*President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind along with Dr. Mulatu Teshome, President of Ethiopia at Guard of Honour Ceremony during Ceremonial Arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport on 4 October 2017.*

During the bilateral talks with his interlocutors, possibilities of further deepening economic and commercial relations and cooperation in the area of capacity building were also discussed. The following agreements were signed between the two sides:

- (a) Trade Agreement.
- (b) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media.

The following announcements were made during the visit:

- (i) A concessional Line of Credit of US\$ 195.35 million for a 400 KV power transmission line to the industrial park project in Mek'ele in Ethiopia;
- (ii) Donation of 100,000 NCERT books of Science and Maths;
- (iii) Donation of 1000 Metric Tonnes of rice and;
- (iv) Donation of medicines worth US\$ 2 million

India donated a US\$ 1.2 million worth 64 Slice CT Scan Machine at a function held at the Black Lion Hospital, Addis Ababa on 26 August 2017.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences transited through Addis Ababa on 4 and 7 December 2017. During his transit, he met with the Ethiopian Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Getahun Mekuria and Minister of State for Industry Dr. Alemu Sime at the VIP lounge.

Two events to be held in the next year will be:

- International Hindi Day
- Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas

## **Gabon**

Relations with Gabon continued on an upward trajectory during the period under review. The Gabonese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pacome Mobebe Boubeya, visited New Delhi in June 2017 and held discussions with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. Oil India Ltd (OIL), in partnership with Indian Oil Ltd, is conducting oil exploration in Shakti Block, Lamberele in Gabon. 23 Indian companies were granted licences to set up units in Gabon's SEZ in 2016. Most of these companies plan to establish veneer manufacturing plants in

Gabon, which has become an attractive investment place for the wood industry in recent years. Gabon has been supportive of India's candidatures in multilateral fora including its

candidature for the ICJ. It signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA) and is expected to ratify the Agreement soon.



*External Affairs Minister and MoS Shri M.J. Akbar with Pacome Moubelet Boubeya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon at the signing ceremony in New Delhi on 19 June 2017.*

## The Gambia

Bilateral relations with India are warm and friendly. The Gambia has been supportive of India's candidatures in multilateral fora including for the ICJ, ITLOS (International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea), and IMO (International Maritime Organisation). The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Mr. Dawdha Ceesay participated in the 3rd edition of Global Exhibition on Services from 17-20 April 2017 in New Delhi. Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs, Mr. Amadou Sanneh, participated in the 52nd Annual Meeting of AfDB in Gandhinagar in May 2017 along with a high-level delegation. India has over US \$ 200 million worth of developmental projects in The Gambia. Indian company, Shapoorji Pallonji Mideast has been awarded the contract for construction of the University of The Gambia (UTG) Faraba campus in Banjul at a cost of US\$ 53.46 million. A 'Vocational Training Centre' and a 'Food Testing Laboratory' have been established in Banjul under the IAFS process and handed over to The Gambian authorities in September 2017. The Centre would provide training in disciplines such as plumbing, welding, electrical, construction sector, carpentry, draftsman-ship,

survey, plastic technology demonstration cum training, ICT, agro and food processing, gem-stones cutting and polishing. In view of the high utilization of training and capacity building opportunities, in 2017-18, The Gambia was allotted 50 slots under ITEC Programme (out of which 26 slots have been utilized) and 30 ICCR Scholarships (which have been fully utilised). The Mission in Dakar organized the 3rd International Day of Yoga in Banjul on 24 June 2017 in which over 150 persons including diplomats, high dignitaries and Indian Diaspora were present.

## Ghana

The warm and friendly relations with Ghana were further strengthened by the visit of MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar from 14-16 August 2017 for Freedom@70 celebrations which included an Odissi Dance performance by an Indian dance troupe at the National Theatre in Accra. This was the first Ministerial visit after the formation of a new government in Ghana in January 2017. In addition to calling on President Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, MoS met all Ghanaian dignitaries (including former UNSG Mr. Kofi Annan), presented a cheque of US\$ 1 million as grant assistance

towards rehabilitation of the residential portion of the Flagstaff House (Presidential complex completed in 2008 with a GoI LoC), laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Foreign Service Institute under a GoI LoC and inaugurated the 'Namaskar Africa' Trade Show (organized by FICCI in association with the Association of Ghana Industries and Ghana National Chamber of Commerce & Industry in which 63 Indian companies participated). Minister of Food & Agriculture, Dr. Osuwu Afriyie Akoto, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Finance Mr. Charles Kofi Adu Boahen and other senior officials participated in the 52nd Annual Meeting of the AfDB held in Gandhinagar from 22 -25 May 2017. Former President John Dramani Mahama also attended this event and met PM Shri Narendra Modi. An amendatory agreement to the Buyer's Credit agreement for the construction of Tema-Akosombo railway line was also signed. On 5 June 2017, Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and DG, CSIR led a delegation comprising two senior scientists from CSIR and Chairman & MD of National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for the handing over ceremony of the GoI-funded Pilot Research Project on tomato production in Ghana (jointly implemented by NRDC India and CSIR Ghana). Ghanaian Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs, Mr. Isaac Kwame Asiamah, was the Chief Guest at the 3rd International

Day of Yoga celebration at the forecourt of the State House on 17 June 2017 attended by over 600 yoga enthusiasts. A team of 40 Indian companies sponsored by FIEO (Federation of Indian Exporters' Organisation) participated in the POWERLEC Ghana 2017 held in Accra from 11-12 August 2017. Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Prof. Aaron Mike Oquaye participated in the City Montessori School Conference of Chief Justices held in Lucknow in November 2017. Ghanaian Minister of Communications, Ms. Ursula Owusu Ekufu, participated in the Global Conference on Cyber Space held in New Delhi from 23-24 November 2017. Ghana signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance in May 2017 on the sidelines of the 52nd Annual Meeting of AfDB. The ratification of the ISA Framework Agreement was done by the Ghanaian Parliament on 3 October 2017 making Ghana one of the first 15 countries to ratify the Agreement. Bilateral trade between India and Ghana amounted to US\$ 2.61 billion in 2016-17. India's exports to Ghana were valued at US\$ 681.03 million and imports (dominated by gold) at US\$ 1938.54 million. Ghana supported India at the ICJ elections held in November 2017.

Ghanaian Minister of Trade & Industry is expected to visit India to participate in the 13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership from 25-27 March 2018.



*Minister of State For External Affairs, Shri M. J Akbar meeting with president of Ghana on August 2017.*

## Guinea

India's relations with Guinea continued to deepen during the year. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the Guinean President, Mr. (Prof) Alpha Condé (in his capacity as AU Chairman) on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017. Minister of Foreign Affairs & Guineans Abroad, Mr. Mamadi Touré, visited India and in his discussions with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj on 6 November 2017, sought India's support for Guinea's Plan national de développement économique et social (PNDES) [National Plan for Economic and Social Development] and participation at a donors' conference which was to be held in Paris later that month. The Indian side responded positively and was represented at the donors' meet. The visiting Guinean FM also submitted the ratification documents pertaining to the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

## Guinea Bissau

The government of Guinea Bissau has been generally supportive of India at international fora candidature in ITLOS and ICJ. Guinea-Bissau signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in Marrakesh in November 2016. Bilateral trade for the year 2016-17 stood at US\$ 237.32 million with exports from India of US\$ 21.66 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 215.67 million. Guinea Bissau is a source of approximately US\$ 200 million worth of raw cashew which supports the cashew processing industry in India. GoI has extended LoC of US\$ 25 million to Guinea Bissau. LoC for US\$ 5 million (out of US\$ 25 million) for food processing and agricultural sector has been disbursed. US\$ 20 million for Rural Electrification Project is being implemented. India continues to provide capacity enhancement support to Guinea Bissau under ITEC (for 2017-18, 10 slots have been allotted) and ICCR scholarships (5 slots in 2017-18). The Mission in Dakar organized the 3rd International Day of Yoga in Bissau on 18 June 2017. Over 100 persons including foreign nationals, sportspersons, schoolchildren and Indian Diaspora attended the event.

Indian Embassy in Dakar is organising a Business Seminar in Bissau in January 2018 in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Bissau.

## Kenya

India's partnership with Kenya continued to deepen during the year with sustained interactions at all levels.

MoS Shri M. J. Akbar visited Kenya to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta on 28 November 2017 in Nairobi. MoS Shri M. J. Akbar called on President Kenyatta to hand over a letter of congratulations from Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi. MoS congratulated Deputy President Mr. William Ruto and Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Foreign Affairs Amb. Amina Mohammed. MoS also interacted with Indian community representatives.

President Uhuru Kenyatta presided over the commissioning ceremony of the Bhabhatron II – an advanced telecobalt cancer therapy machine donated by the GOI at the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi on 24 August 2017.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, the then Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting visited Kenya from 7-11 May 2017 to participate in the 26th Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT held in Nairobi. India was unanimously elected as the President of the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat for a period of two-years (2017-19). The Minister held a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Transport, Infrastructure and Housing Mr. James Macharia and with the Executive Director of the UN Habitat Dr. Joan Clos. He held bilateral discussions with delegations of Afghanistan and Malaysia. He interacted with the Indian Diaspora in Kenya.

India is Kenya's leading trade and investment partner. Bilateral trade for the year 2016-17 was US\$ 2.30 billion. The Mission facilitated a visit of about 50 Indian companies to participate in Complast Kenya in June 2017 and over 50 companies in Agritech Africa in June 2017. A Contract for supply of machinery, under a LoC extended by India for the revival of Rivatex was signed at Eldoret on 18 April 2017.

A two-member delegation from the Indian Oil Corporation Limited visited on 16-17 November 2017. In June 2017, a Kenyan delegation from the University of Nairobi and Kenya Pipeline Limited paid a benchmarking study tour to India. Kenya participated in "Advantage Healthcare India 2017" (October 2017) and "Global Conference on Cyber Space (November 2017). The Bilateral Agreements on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic Passport Holders and Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion and came into force on 14 July 2017 and 30 August 2017 respectively.

ICCR sponsored a visit of 'Rangla Punjab' group in May 2017. It also sponsored 'Gotipua Dance' troupe to Kenya in November 2017 to participate in the Lamu Cultural Festival. Indian artists Kathak Guru Shri Ram Mohan Mishra and Kuchipudi Guru Smt. Madhuri Majumdar visited Kenya in July 2017 as adjudicators for the Kenya Music Festival. ICCR sponsored the visit of Ms. Rajni Bakshi, a member of the Executive Committee of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in connection with the commemoration of 11th International Day of Non-violence in Nairobi. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of India's Independence, the Ministry of

Culture supported the visit of a Kathak troupe led by Dr. Uma Sharma to Kenya in November 2017. The High Commissioner handed over grants-in-aid under a Ministry of Culture scheme to various Kenyan societies involved in promoting Indian culture and contributing towards fostering friendly relations between India and Kenya.

The Mission organized events to celebrate the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 18 June 2017; the 100th Birth Anniversary Year of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on 24 September 2017; the 142nd Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on 31 October 2017 and the Constitution Day of India on 27 November 2017. On 24 September 2017, the Mission symbolically released commemorative postal stamps on Ramayana. The Mission organised events to promote the State of Punjab on 20 May 2017 and the States of Maharashtra and Goa on 24 October 2017 as part of state facilitation.

The 46th Higher Command Course from Army War College, Mhow visited Kenya on a Study Tour from 25-29 September 2017. A team from the 57th Course of National Defence College of India visited Kenya in May 2017. The Indian Air Force conducted two Capsule Courses for Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in May-June and June-August 2017; The Indian Navy conducted a Naval Capsule Course for KDF in August-September 2017 and the Indian Army conducted a Capsule Course in October 2017.

A KDF Medical officer attended the 33rd Marine Medical Conference hosted by the Indian Navy in Mumbai in June 2017. Four senior KDF officers paid a benchmarking visit to the Centre for UN Peace Keeping, New Delhi in September 2017. Three senior KDF Medical officers attended the 42nd World Congress of Military Medicine in New Delhi. One Indian Army officer underwent a course at the International Peace Support Training Centre in Nairobi in October 2017.

It is estimated that around 80,000 persons of Indian origin are in Kenya which includes 20,000 Indian citizens. As part of 15th August celebrations, text books on Hindi and Tamil, obtained through the ICCR were gifted respectively to the Hindi Samiti of East Africa and the Tamil Association. A major thrust was given to Hindi promotion through Hindi classes conducted at the Mission's premises and organisation of cultural performances. Over 65,000 Indian tourists visited Kenya in 2016. As part of Paryatan Parv 2017 celebrations, the Mission organized three functions at Kisumu and another at Nairobi to promote tourism from Kenya to India.

From 1 April - 30 November 2017, Kenya utilised 136 training slots under ITEC and 54 under IAFS III. In addition, as part of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiative funded from 'Aid to Africa' budget, nine Kenyan doctors were trained.

During the period (April to November 2017), the Mission organised four consular camps, issued 1858 passports, 11,000 visas, 1330 OCI cards, 28 emergency certificates and rendered consular services to around 900 people. Around 5000 Kenyans availed e-Visa facility.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister for Commerce & Industry held a meeting with Amb. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Foreign Affairs on the sidelines of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences visited Kenya to attend the 3rd Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi from 4-7 December 2017. Dr. Harsh Vardhan greeted President Kenyatta at the opening ceremony of UNEA and interacted with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources of Republic of Kenya Prof Ms. Judi Wakhungu.

A delegation from the Council for Leather Exports of India visited Kenya from 6-8 December 2017 under 'Supporting Indian Trade & Investment for Africa' (SITA) project of International Trade Centre. The delegation met with Kenyan officials and visited tanneries & factories in Kenya.

The Mission celebrated the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day 2017 on 13 December 2017. Ms. Sicily Kariuki, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs of Kenya was the Chief Guest and Solicitor General Mr. Njee Muturi was the Guest of Honour at the event.

Expected events during January – March 2018 are:

- Proposed visit of a defence delegation led by Shri Sanjay Mitra, Defence Secretary to Kenya (11-13 January 2018)
- Proposed visit of a Tamil Folk Group sponsored by ICCR and Tamil Nadu state promotion event (19-23 January 2018)

## Lesotho

The 3rd meeting of the India-Lesotho Joint Bilateral Cooperation Commission was held in New Delhi on 1 December 2017 with a view to deepen, diversify, and identify new synergetic areas of cooperation and collaboration.



*Prime Minister with the foreign dignitaries at the 52nd African Development Bank Annual meetings, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 23 May 2017.*

The Minister of Police and Public Safety, Kingdom of Lesotho Ms. Mampho Mokhele was in India from 4-7 November 2017 on a study tour. During her visit, the Minister met with the Commissioner of Police of Delhi and heads of various Police Departments. She also visited the Gujarat Forensic laboratory. Discussions were related to India-Lesotho Police cooperation and the specific needs of Lesotho Police including forensics.

On 29 November 2017, the humanitarian assistance of 500 MT of rice was handed over to the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The High Commissioner of India Ms. Ruchira Kamboj inaugurated the India-Lesotho Centre for Advanced Information Technology a fully funded Government of India project, at the Lerotholi Polytechnic, Maseru. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. H.Setsabi described the IT Centre as a 'magnificent gift' by India. The Centre will impart critical training skills to youth, leading to more inclusive growth and development.

In 2017-18, Lesotho so far utilised 25 slots out of 70 ITEC slots.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 18 June 2017 in Maseru, Lesotho, with the assistance of the Consul of India in Lesotho. The Director of Asia and Pacific Realm from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Mr. Matete Nena attended the function as the Chief Guest.

The 71st Independence Day of India was celebrated at the

residence of the Consul of India to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Mr Man Mohan Bakaya on 15 August 2017. The celebration was attended by thirteen Ministers that included the Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister, Government Secretary, Principal Secretaries, Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commander of the Lesotho Defense Force, Director of National Security Services, Director of Public Prosecutions and Senior departmental heads of his Majesty's Government and the Members of Indian Association of Lesotho and Indian Community. Members of the Diplomatic corps and International organizations that included representatives from UN systems attended the function.

An India-Lesotho Cultural event was held in Maseru, Lesotho organised by the Indian Association of Lesotho (IAL) on 5 November 2017. Addressing the India-Lesotho cultural celebrations, Tourism and Culture Minister, Ms. 'Mamotsie Motsie, said that Basotho should emulate their Indian friends in order to grow the economy through cultural and heritage products. The event featured performances from Indian and Basotho troupes. The main attraction was the Jhaankar School of Dance - an Indian dance troupe from South Africa which showcased Indian traditional dances mostly drawn from the Indian heritage Bollywood movies.

Bilateral trade increased from US\$ 35 million in 2016-17 to US\$ 58.09 million in 2016-17.

The third Meeting of the India-Lesotho Joint Commission for Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 1 December 2017. The



Indian delegation was led by Dr. Neena Malhotra, JS(E&SA), Ministry of External Affairs and the Lesotho delegation by Mr. Nkopane Monyane, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Kingdom of Lesotho.

The King of Lesotho, His Majesty King Letsie III along with his family made a private visit to India. He made a courtesy call on Rashtrapati Ji on 2 January 2018.

## Liberia

India's relations with Liberia remained on an even keel during the year. There were however, no high-level engagements/visits during the period.

## Libya

As part of Government of India exercise to continue to engage with Libya despite political turmoil there, the Indian Embassy in Tripoli, camped in Djerba/Malta, and ensured that out of the 10 seats allocated for Libya for 2017-18 under ITEC Programme, 3 Libyan students could attend the offered courses. One Libyan diplomat attended the 63rd PCFD Course conducted by FSI in 2017.

India continues to engage with Libyan authorities for well being our nationals.

## Madagascar

Ambassador Subir Dutta formally handed over capacity building equipment worth US\$ 37,530 to the President of Senate on 6 April 2017. Mr. Rakotoarimanana Francois Marie Maurice Gervais, Minister of Finance and Budget of Madagascar signed an agreement on 29 June 2017 for a LoC of US\$ 2.5 million to help Madagascar complete the US\$ 25 million rice productivity and fertilizer plant project.

M/s. Escorts signed an MoU for supply of 1000 tractors under Buyers' Credit Agreement with the Exim Bank.

The Mission organized the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 18 June 2017 in Madagascar. As part of India's 70th anniversary celebrations, the Mission organized a series of events: illumination of the local Mayor's Office on 15-16 August 2017 with Indian tricolours; a photo exhibition 'Pluralistic Culture of India – Harmony in Diversity' from 17-22 August 2017 and an Indian folk dance performance by Roop Kala Kendra, Mumbai sponsored by ICCR in Antananarivo on 19-20 August 2017 and 22 August 2017 in Mahajunga, West Coast of Madagascar. Gujarat Day was organized on 20 October 2017 in Madagascar showcasing all round achievements of the State along with a photo exhibition.

Madagascar so far utilised 50 slots under the ITEC programme, two under Defence ITEC, 18 slots under IAFS, three slots under ICCR general scholarships and one under Sir CV Raman Fellowship.

All works at the Centre for Geoinformatic Application in Rural Development, a grant project of GoI, were completed.

The Mission hosted a "Made in India Trade Fare" in Antananarivo on 16-17 December 2017, showcasing the economic progress made in India in various fields. Five companies from India representing pharmaceutical, education, textiles, software and small scale manufacturing sectors attended the Trade Fare. Local companies engaged with India in exports and imports participated. More than 3000 people visited the stalls.

The President Shri Ramnath Kovind is paying a state visit to Madagascar from 14-15 March 2018.

## Malawi

Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano, Minister of Education, Science & Technology, visited India to attend the 3rd Global Exhibition on Services in April 2017. During his visit, he met Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of HRD and had meetings with IGNOU and Amity University for cooperation in education sector.

Mr. Llyod Muhara, Chief Secretary, Malawi led a delegation of senior officials to study irrigation schemes in India from 11-16 July 2017.

Mr. Nicholas Harry Dausi, Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Malawi visited India to attend the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 on 23-24 November 2017. He also called on Shri R.K Singh, MoS for Power and New and Renewable Energy and discussed cooperation in power sector between the two countries.

The 2nd JWG meeting in the field of Mineral Resources between India and Malawi was held in Lilongwe from 16-18 August 2017. Malawi ratified the International Solar Alliance Agreement in November 2017.

President Peter Mutharika on 6 December 2017 commissioned a strategic oil reserve in Lilongwe constructed with the assistance from the Government of India through a Line of Credit (LoC) of \$26.75 million from the Exim Bank of India.

Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare visited Malawi to attend the 21st Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Board

Meeting to be held from 12-15 December 2017 in Lilongwe, Malawi, being organized by WHO.

India and Malawi are expected to hold their Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi in the first week of February 2018.

## Mali

Relations with Mali were further deepened during the year. MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Mali from 2-3 March 2017 during which he co-chaired the first-ever Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between the two countries along with the Malian Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdoulaye Diop. Bilateral cooperation in various sectors like agriculture, energy was discussed. The Malian side thanked India for its assistance of US\$ 0.5 million for the reconstruction of the world heritage site of Timbuktu. Sixty ITEC slots and 8 ICCR scholarships have been offered to Mali for 2017-18 including a special English language training course for 20 officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mali ratified the Framework Agreement for the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 2 October 2017. Bilateral trade between India and Mali trebled from 2012-13 to 2015-16 and currently stands at about US \$206.94 million (2016-17). India received continued support of Mali in various international fora at the UN and international body elections including at the ICJ.

Malian Minister of Culture, H.E. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo is expected to visit India for the inauguration of "Taj Mahal Meets Timbuktu" exhibition on 3 February 2018.

## Mauritania

No high-level/official visits took place during 2017. Fifteen ITEC slots and two ICCR scholarships were offered to Mauritania during 2017-18. Bilateral trade during 2016-2017 was about US\$ 76.93 million. India received continued support of Mauritania during 2017 in various international fora (various UN and international body elections including at the ICJ).

## Morocco

Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) were held in New Delhi on 24 & 25 April 2017. The 5th India-Morocco Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in Rabat on 25 & 26 May 2017. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman the then MoS (IC) for Commerce and Industry led the Indian side. A MoU on Cooperation on Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati, India and Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision (SNRT), Morocco was signed.

As part of its overseas deployment INS Tarkash, a Talwar class frigate of the Indian Navy paid a port-call to Casablanca port from 18-21 May 2017. It was followed by the visit of a 31-member delegation of 57th Course of National Defence College, India from 21-27 May 2017.

India participated in Salon International de l'Agriculture au Maroc (SIAM) that is Africa's largest agriculture, agricultural machinery and agro-products fair, from 18-23 April 2017 in Meknes.

On 20 & 21 April 2017, the MEA and Maroc Export, Morocco organized Morocco-India Business Forum in Casablanca. The 31-member Indian delegation, led by Shri Nagaraj Naidu, Joint Secretary, MEA, represented sectors including renewable energy, real estate, construction and engineering, and medical health with participation from Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Escorts Agri, Artemis Hospital, Fedders Lloyd, Shapoorji Pallonji International, Suzlon Energy, Jindal Realty, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, and Confederation of Indian Industry. The forum attracted several Moroccan companies.

The Embassy organised a catalogue exhibition for promotion of 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela (2-18 February 2018) and Haryana Tourism, on 18 September 2017 in Casablanca.

Following an MoU signed on 10 December 2014 between India and Morocco, the Centre for Excellence in Information Technology has been established in Casablanca. The Centre will train 500 students annually for two years.

Under the auspices of the India-Morocco CEP (2016-2019), the Embassy organised performances by Odissi maestro Janhabi Behera and group in various cities of Morocco. Another ICCR sponsored group led by Sarod maestro Abhisek Lahiri participated in the 18th Volubilis International Festival of World Traditional Music in Meknes on 15 July 2017 and also performed in Salé under the bilateral CEP. Violin maestro Swapna Dattatraya Datar and group from ICCR participated in the 19th International Luth Festival from 13-15 May 2017 and performed in Tetouan, Chefchaouen, and Fnideq.

Mr. Mohammed Tawfik Mouline, Director General of Royal Institute of Strategic Studies (IRES), Rabat visited India from 8-16 October 2017 under the Academic Visitors' Programme of ICCR.

Mr Nouredine Boutayeb, Minister Delegate to Ministry of Interior of Government of Kingdom of Morocco led a delegation to India from 29 October - 6 November 2017 to study the Indian experience of AADHAR Programme, DBT,

Gas Subsidy and Digitised Banking and the AADHAR programme. The delegation met Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS, Home Affairs, Government of India, who briefed the Moroccan Minister on initiatives under National e-Governance Plan and urged the Moroccan side for liberal visa regime for Indian citizens, especially the business community.

Seventy-five Indian companies led by ASSOCHAM and Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) participated in the Morocco Food Expo from 8-10 December 2017 in Casablanca.

At the invitation of Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Water Resources, Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco led an official delegation to India from 15-21 December 2017. The delegation also visited Titagarh Group facilities in Kolkata and Tata Motors facilities in Pune. Seven Agreements/MoUs were signed in the sectors of water, health and telemedicine, maritime and railways.

The Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) in Casablanca was inaugurated on 18 December 2017.

A multi-product business delegation visited Morocco from 17-19 January 2018.

On the occasion of Republic Day and for participation in the Know India Seminar, a eight-member group led by Bharatnatyam maestro Chitra Dasarchy will visit Morocco from 21-31 January 2018.

A four member Rural Electrification Corporation delegation visited Morocco to hold discussions in the field of rural solar energy projects.

Ms. Jamila El Moussali, Secretary of State of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy of Morocco will be leading a group of seventeen artisans to participate in the annual Surajkund Mela in February 2018.

## Mozambique

Relations between India and Mozambique continued to see growth and development over the past year, benefiting from the momentum imparted by the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the previous year.

A team of ten school-teachers from the Mozambican Ministry of Education were invited for a 10-day visit to India in April 2017. During their stay, the Mozambican delegation visited various educational institutions and interacted with relevant Indian institutions for primary and secondary education. The

purpose of the visit was to explore avenues for strengthening Indian support to the education sector of Mozambique.

Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee & Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, visited Mozambique on 23-26 July 2017 to explore possibilities of strengthening defence & security relations between India and Mozambique, especially in the area of maritime security. This was the highest level military visit from India to Mozambique, since the independence of Mozambique. During his stay, Admiral Lanba held substantive discussions with his counterpart General Grace Tomas Chongo and called on the Minister of Defence Mr. Ataniso Salvador Ntamuke. The visit helped in identifying various ways in which India can support the Mozambican defence forces in terms of institutional and human capacity building.

On the request of the Government of Mozambique, India provided about 2000 bicycles and 200 motorcycles as logistic support for the population census of Mozambique, which took place in the first half of August 2017. The Indian assistance allowed census enumerators to reach far flung parts of Mozambique, and thus enabled a more accurate count of the population.

On 28 August 2017, the MEA and the Foreign Ministry of Mozambique held their first ever Foreign Office Consultations in Maputo, during the visit of Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa). On the Mozambican side, the Consultations were co-chaired by Ambassador Belmiro Malate, Director-General in-charge of Asia & Oceania. The FOCs allowed for a full review of the state of relations, and to follow up on the various ongoing initiatives and projects.

On 6 November 2017, the first tranche of medicines donated by India to Mozambique were formally handed over to the Mozambican Health Minister, Dr. Nazira Vali Abdula, by the Indian High Commissioner. This donation had been announced during the state visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Mozambique in July 2016, and will significantly improve the availability of affordable drugs within the Mozambican public health system.

As part of India's cultural outreach to Mozambique, the International Day of Yoga was celebrated on an unprecedented scale in Maputo on 24 June 2017, with an Indian Yoga Guru leading nearly 800 Mozambican participants, including important dignitaries, through the Common Yoga Protocol. A classical dance troupe from India also illustrated the common philosophical roots of yoga and classical Indian dance. Later in the year, ICCR sponsored the visit of an Odissi Dance troupe

to Mozambique in late October 2017, which gave three highly-appreciated performances.

In December 2017, the Chairman of the Kerala Cashew Board visited Mozambique, and held discussions with the Mozambican Government and business representatives on possibilities of increasing imports of raw cashew kernels from Mozambique.

In January 2018, Government of India is expected to provide the first installment of a USD 1million grant to the Mozambican Ministry of Health for purchase of medical equipment from India. The equipment are expected to reach Mozambique shortly.

In late January 2018, an ICCR-sponsored Sitar maestro visited Mozambique and performed in Maputo as well as other cities, and was much appreciated by the Indian diaspora.

There is a possibility of a visit by Raksha Mantri to Mozambique in February 2018.

## Niger

Relations with Niger witnessed further strengthening during the year. Two LoC projects viz., (i) setting up of a 7MW Solar Plant at Malbaza for US\$ 24.70 million and (ii) Solar Electrification of 50 villages for US\$ 9.84 million commenced in April 2017 with the opening of LCs [projects being executed by M/s Sterling & Wilson of Shapoorji Pallonji group and M/s Super Solar Energies (J.V) respectively]. The projects are expected to be completed during the course of 2018. The LoC project for drilling of 500 boreholes to supply water to rural and semi-urban areas, which is under execution since April 2016, has largely been completed and is expected to be handed over formally by December, 2017. Niger's Minister for Planning, Deputy Minister for Budget, and the Director of Investment participated in the 52nd Annual meeting of the AfDB which was held in Gandhinagar from 22-26 May 2017. Niger's Under-17 National football team participated in the 'International Day of Yoga' held on 18 June 2017 in the Chancery premises of the Mission in Niamey. The Minister of Secondary Education was the Chief Guest and the Minister for Culture, the Guest of Honour. The U-17 team later participated in the FIFA U-17 World cup held in India in October 2017. Two members of the Niger's National Assembly, Ms. Hannatou Barkire and Mr. Eckawel Malik, attended the Familiarization Programme for Young Parliamentarians from 1-5 August 2017 in New Delhi. This was the first time that Parliamentarians from Niger participated in such a programme in India. A two-member

team consisting of Prof. V.Madhava Rao, Head of Centre for Geo-Informatics Applications for Rural Development (CGARD) and Dr. Ravibabu M, Associate Professor from National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) visited Niamey from 19-21 September 2017 in connection with a feasibility study for setting up of CGARD in Niamey (under IAFS). The Nigerien side is expected to identify a building to house the CGARD and sign the MoU for the purpose. Niger has joined India's Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme in 2017 which was extended to LDC countries.

## Nigeria

India-Nigeria bilateral relations grew during the year with increased level of bilateral engagement and interactions. As the largest democracy and the largest economy in Africa, Nigeria maintained close political and commercial relations during the year. The bilateral relationship has substantial economic content with India remaining the largest trading partner of Nigeria globally, and Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa. Nigeria continues to play an important role in India's energy security as the third largest supplier of crude oil to India, with almost 12% of India's annual crude oil requirements imported from it. Both countries have a sound and diversified defence engagement with frequent exchanges between the Armed Forces of the two countries. India continued to be a major health tourism destination for Nigerians, while Nigeria is a major source of employment for over 40,000 Indian nationals in managerial and expert-level positions.

Following the visit of Vice President of India Shri Hamid Ansari to Nigeria in September 2016, the bilateral political relations remained resilient. Executive Governors of States of Ebonyi and Edo visited India to participate in CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in March and in connection with setting up of Industrial Park in Benin City in September 2017 respectively. Nigerian senior officials from Finance Ministry accompanied by two members of House of Representatives attended the AfDB meeting held in Gandhinagar in May 2017. As Nigeria emerged from recession during the second-half of the year, Indian businesses showed greater interest in venturing into new sectors of engagement. In a span of three-month period, over 150 Indian companies covering diverse sectors of ICTs, engineering goods, power utility manufacturers, etc. participated in Exhibitions/Fairs in Nigeria. For the first time, Indo-Africa ICT Expo 2017 with participation of 50 Indian ICT companies was held in Lagos in September 2017, which was attended by the Ministers of Communications from

Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, apart from representatives of five other African countries. Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) and National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) organized the event. Twenty-two Indian companies from the engineering sector led by EEPCC participated in Nigeria Pharma Manufacturers' Expo in Lagos in September 2017. Twenty Indian companies attended Power Nigeria Exhibition 2017 held in Lagos in September. An Indian Pavilion with 50 Indian companies participated in Future Energy Nigeria Exhibition at Lagos in November 2017. Indian High Commission Office in Lagos organized the 6th Indian Products and Services Exhibition (IPASE) in Lagos in March 2017 with participation from prominent Indian companies including Airtel, Ashok Leyland, TATA, TVS, Godrej and Dabur along with Indian Pharma importers.

The 4th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) was held in Abuja in November 2017. A 15-member team from National Defence College, New Delhi led by a Major General, visited Nigeria on a study tour in May 2017. The first goodwill visit of Indian warship INS Tarkash in 15 years to coincide with the Nigerian Navy Day on 1 June 2017 was deeply appreciated by the Nigerian Defence establishment. Nigerian Defence Minister visited the ship, apart from Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Command of Nigeria. A joint naval exercise was also conducted between Nigerian and Indian navies at the end of the ship's visit. Among the other notable exchanges between the defence establishments of the two countries include the visit of a three-member team of instructors led by a Brigadier General level officer from NDA, Khadakwasla, to Nigeria in April 2017; visit of three-member Nigerian Army delegation led Director, Department of Training & Operation, Nigerian Army Headquarters, to various Indian Army Training Institutions in October 2017; visit of a 15-member Nigerian Armed Forces delegation led by Director of Medical Services, Nigerian Armed Forces Medical Services in November 2017 to attend the 42nd International Committee of Military Medicine World Congress held at New Delhi. An eleven-member Indian Naval Mobile Training Team was deployed in Nigeria for 12 weeks at Nigerian Naval Engineering College. A Commodore-level officer of Indian Navy is undergoing NDC Course at Abuja and a Nigerian Army Officer is attending the NDC course in New Delhi. India's role in human resource development through ITEC Programmes and ICCR scholarships is well appreciated, with ITEC slots for Nigeria increased from 200 to 300 in 2017-18.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated in

Abuja, Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt. The Mission's engagement with Indian community increased considerably during the year. The new premises of the High Commission at Abuja and Lagos were made available to the Indian community to hold cultural functions for celebrating various Indian festivals. The Mission also organised various other events including Swachata Hi Seva campaign, Gandhi Jayanti, Sardar Vallabhai Patel's birth anniversary, Birth centenary celebrations of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay with the active participation of the Indian community. Nigeria has signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement and its ratification is now awaited. Nigeria also supported Justice Dalveer Bhandari's election to the ICJ.

A business event entitled "Nigeria-India Cooperation in Agriculture & Allied Sectors – Opportunities and Way Forward" was organized by our Mission in Abuja on 5 December 2017. The event was inaugurated by the Nigerian Federal Minister of Agriculture. A MoU between the Nigerian Association of Chambers, Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and ASSOCHAM was signed. The event was attended by more than 250 people from the Business Chambers of States as well as private and government agencies, private enterprise, representative of Farmers' Association and Indian investors currently based in Nigeria. The Nigerian Minister of Agriculture later visited India from 11-15 December 2017 and met our Minister for Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare. He also visited Kolkata (to look at jute bag production) and Anand (Gujarat) to study India's experience in White Revolution.

The former Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of Nigeria, Prof. Attahiru Jega, visited India from 15-23 December 2017 under Indian Council for Cultural Relations' Distinguished Visitors Programme. During his visit, he met MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J.Akbar, Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javedkar and Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Achal Kumar Jyoti besides meeting with Vice Chancellors of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and Mumbai University.

## Namibia

Since its pre-independence era, India and Namibia have very close and friendly relations and these have only been on progressive trend since then.

The former President of Namibia, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba visited India in his personal capacity from 24-28 July 2017.

During his visit, Dr. Pohamba also saw some of the Indian agricultural entities in Coimbatore, Chandigarh and Baddi to explore areas of cooperation with the University of Namibia.

Indian Navy ship, INS Tarkash, of the Western Fleet, made a port call at Walvis Bay from 15-18 June 2017. During the visit, the Commanding Officer of the ship, Capt. Rituraj Sahu paid courtesy calls on the Governor of the Erongo Region, Mayor of Walvis Bay and Commander Naval Operations of the Namibian Navy amongst other Namibian dignitaries and senior defence officers. The ship was open for public visit on June 17.

A four-member delegation led by Deputy Minister of Finance, Paulus N. Ithete visited India to attend the 52nd Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank held at Gandhinagar on 22-26 May 2017.

An 11-member delegation from CII visited Namibia from 30-31 July 2017, and met the Prime Minister of Namibia, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. The delegation also had meetings with Ministries of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, Agriculture, Works and Transport, and Mines & Energy apart from holding meetings with Telecom Namibia, Nampower, Agribusidev and Namibia Airports Authority. A business-to-business interaction with the Namibian companies was also arranged during the visit.

The Mission celebrated the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 25 June 2017. Apart from the Mayor of Windhoek Muesee Kazapua, Member of Parliament Bernadette Jagger, members of the Indian community, yoga teachers based in different cities of Namibia, school children, etc., more than 400 persons participated. In the run up to the main event, the Mission organised a yoga demonstration at Franco Namibian Cultural Centre on 13 May 2017 and another at Dorado School on 21 June 2017.

A five-member Namibian delegation visited India from 19-20 July 2017 for discussions/training with CERT-In for the purpose of establishing a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Namibia.

On 8 August 2017, the High Commissioner handed over US\$ 20,000 grant to Dr. Bernard Haufiku, Minister of Health & Social Services of Namibia at a well attended function. The grant was announced during the visit of the then President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Indira Gandhi Maternity Clinic in Namibia. The Governor of Omusati Region, Councillor of Okahao constituency, several senior officials from the Ministry of Health and the regional government also attended the event.

On 25 October 2017, the High Commission of India celebrated “Paryatan Parv” in conjunction with Diwali function with the theme “Dekho Apna Desh” where more than 200 members of the Indian community participated to appreciate its spirit.

Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel was celebrated as the National Unity Day on 31 October 2017. A small photo exhibition on Sardar Patel was also a part of the event along with a quiz competition based on his life and contribution and screening of a documentary film “Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – A recalling”.

The Mission celebrated the ITEC Day on 10 November 2017. More than 200 ITEC Alumni attended the event. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) and other senior government functionaries graced the event. Deputy Minister in his remarks conveyed the sincere appreciation of the Government of Namibia to the GoI for providing ITEC and ICCR scholarships to the Namibian officials and students.

The drought relief assistance of 1000 tons of rice announced during the state visit of the President of India to Namibia in June 2016, reached Walvis Bay port in November 2017 and its distribution will be undertaken in January 2018 to the affected persons in Erongo, Khomas, Oshikoto, Kunene, and Otjozondjupa Regions.

## Cultural Programmes/activities under India @70

In continuation of the various activities/cultural programme being undertaken under India @70, a culture performance by a group of Namibian artists from the College of Arts in Windhoek is being organised on the occasion of Republic Day 2018.

## Yoga Seminar/Workshop at Walvis Bay

In collaboration with the Mayor’s office in Walvis Bay, a Yoga workshop/seminar will be organised at Walvis Bay Town Hall on 16-17 February, 2017. A large number of local yoga teachers and yoga practitioners are expected to participate in the event.

## Rwanda

Rwanda utilised three out of 25 ITEC slots, ten IAFS slots and two ICCR scholarships so far.

India offered 17 defence training slots at various prestigious defence training institutions in India to Rwanda Defence

Forces (RDF) for the training year 2017-18.

Pan-African e-Network Project continues to run successfully in Rwanda.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Kigali on 24 June 2017. The event was attended by more than 350 persons including eminent Indians and Rwandans.

RwandAir started direct flights between Kigali and Mumbai in April 2017. India included Rwanda in the e-visa facility from 1 April 2017.

Rwanda ratified the visa exemption agreement for diplomatic and official passport holders effective from 16 November 2017.

## Republic of Congo

Bilateral relations with Republic of Congo (ROC) showed an upward trajectory in all areas during the year. MoS Shri M. J. Akbar visited Brazzaville on 5-6 March 2017 and held

discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations including regional and international issues of common concern. In 2014, GoI approved LoC of US\$ 89.9 million for the Development of Transportation System in the capital Brazzaville and Pointe Noire and LoC for US\$ 55 million for a Greenfield 600 tpd rotary kiln based Cement Plant Project in ROC. Contracts have been awarded by the ROC Government and work on these two projects is under progress. Setting up of an Ammonia-Urea Fertilizer Project in Republic of Congo by Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation (GSFC) is under active consideration. ROC government continued to be supportive of India's candidatures in all international/UN bodies including for the ICJ.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in the cities of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. The events were attended by local Ministers/Senior Officials as well as foreign diplomats and members of the Indian Diaspora.



*Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M J Akbar meets Jean Claude Gakosso, Foreign Minister of Congo during his visit to Congo on 7 March 2017.*

## Sao Tome & Principe

Sao Tome & Principe (STP) is keen to develop closer ties with India, considers India as a potential strategic partner and is willing to enter an institutional arrangement in that regard. Both sides have signed a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations. India has assured STP of its support in the form of development partnership, technical cooperation and capacity building to facilitate the socio-economic development of STP. STP has been supportive of India's candidatures in all international/UN bodies including for the Executive Council of UNESCO for the term 2017-2021, ICJ and IMO.

## Senegal

India has excellent bilateral relations with Senegal which flows from historical relationship between both the countries. There is a development partnership of approximately of US\$ 300 million in different sectors. Senegal has been supporting India in multilateral fora and voted in favour of India at the UNHRC elections for the term 2015-2017, ITLOS and ICJ. Senegal has signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement and its ratification is awaited. It has also been playing an important moderating role in the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) meets. President of Senegal has invited India to join 'Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP) of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) as a Sherpa. President Macky Sall visited India in May 2017 to participate in the 52nd Annual Meeting of AfDB in Gandhinagar in May 2017. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also met President Macky Sall on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017. Minister of High Education, Mr. Mary Teuw Niane, visited India to participate in "India-Africa Sharing Mission on

Skills Development" in New Delhi in November 2017. The acting President of Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Dakar (CCIAD), Mr. Douda Thiam, visited India in October 2017 to participate in Advantage Healthcare India-2017. MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Dakar in September 2017 as a Special Envoy of the PM and met President Macky Sall. Economic Advisor to ISA Secretariat visited Dakar to attend the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum in September 2017. Bilateral trade for the year 2016-17 stood at US\$ 953.66 million with exports from India of US\$ 637.75 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 315.91 million. Indian company 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. LoCs projects under various stages of implementation. In August 2017, GoI approved a LoC of US\$ 24.5 million for upgradation and rehabilitation of healthcare system of Senegal. Barefoot College Tillonia is proceeding for establishment of a Vocational Training Centre in Senegal with Tostan, Senegal. Exim Bank extended credit worth US\$ 200 million under the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) to Senegal for transmission line linking Tambacounda-Kolda-Ziguinchor and extension and rehabilitation of networks in Senegal. Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited will be building a 225 KV double circuit transmission line/substations/distribution network in Senegal under the project. In March 2017, the Mission in Dakar donated euros 50,000 to Senegalese Ministry of Health to rehabilitate 200 handicapped persons by fitting prosthetic limbs provided by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) and funded by MEA. India donated euros 50,000 to Senegal in September 2017 for the Dakar International Forum for Peace & Security in Africa.



*Prime Minister meets Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal on the sidelines of Annual Meeting of African Development Bank in Gandhinagar on 23 May 2017.*



In order to increase awareness about business opportunities between India and Senegal, the Mission in Dakar organized four business events in Senegal: Business event-cum-Seminar on India-Senegal Business Opportunities in (i) Information and Communication Sector on 19 January 2017; (ii) Pharmaceutical Sector on 16 March 2017; (iii) All sectors on 26 July 2017 and (iv) Transformation of New India on 8 September 2017. These events attracted wide participation from business persons, local Ministries, local Chambers of Commerce. In order to recognize the significant contributions made by an individual Indian/Association/Indian company based in Senegal in strengthening bilateral relations, the Mission in Dakar instituted the “Bharatsen- The Sun from India” award, an annual recognition certificate. The first-ever Bharatsen-2016 was presented during the Republic Day Reception on 26 January 2017. Our Mission in Dakar will organize the second Festival of India in Senegal- “Tiranga 2.0” in January–February 2018 to celebrate India@70. To promote awareness about the principles and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, an exhibition was inaugurated on 30 January 2017 in the famous Renaissance Monument in Dakar. The exhibition is ongoing and has been attracting large number of children, students, Senegalese people and tourists. The 3rd International Day of Yoga was organized on 18 June 2017 as a grand event at the Place du souvenir in Dakar. India continues to provide capacity building training opportunities to Senegal and for the financial year 2017-18, 30 slots were available under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) (14 slots already utilized) and 10 ICCR Scholarship slots.

Senegalese Parliament is expected to ratify the ISA Framework Agreement by the end of December 2017. Senegal had already

signed the Framework Agreement in November 2016 in Marrakesh.

Senegalese Minister of Petroleum & Energy and Minister of Infrastructure & Land Transport are expected to visit India to participate in the 13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership from 25-27 March 2018.

## Sierra Leone

India and Sierra Leone continued to enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. In a gesture of goodwill, India handed over financial contribution of US\$ 50,000 to the Government of Sierra Leone towards relief and rehabilitation efforts following the large scale loss of life and property due to mudslide and flooding in Freetown on 14 August 2017. The 2nd International Day of Yoga was successfully organized on 24 June 2017 in Freetown. Minister of Finance & Economic Development Mr. Momodu Kargbo represented Sierra Leone at the 52nd Annual meeting of the AfDB held in Gandhinagar from 22 -25 May 2017. Minister for Communications & Information Mr. Mohamed Bangura along with two senior officials participated in the Global Conference on Cyber Space held in New Delhi on 23-24 November 2017. Sierra Leone continued to be supportive of India’s candidatures in all international/UN bodies including for the ICJ.

## Somalia

The new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Mr. Yusuf-Garaad Omar paid his first official visit to India from 31 July - 4 August 2017 and met with EAM and MoS Shri M. J. Akbar. An Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons was signed. On 23 September 2017, Mr. Yusuf-Garaad Omar met MoS Shri M. J. Akbar in New York on sidelines of UNGA.



*External Affairs Minister and Yusuf Garaad Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia at the Signing Ceremony in New Delhi on 1 August 2017.*

Mr. Mohamoud Hayir Ibrahim, State Minister of Finance of Somalia attended the African Development Bank (AfDB) annual meeting held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in May 2017. On the sidelines of the AfDB Annual Meeting, Somalia signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement on 22 May 2017. Somalia ratified the ISA Framework Agreement on 4 September 2017.

As a part of the familiarization programme, two young Members of Parliament from Somalia visited India from 30 July - 5 August 2017.

Somalia participated in the second Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meeting of Experts for Maritime Safety and Security held at New Delhi on 7 & 8 November and CII-Exim Bank Regional Conclave on India and East Africa in Kampala on 20 & 21 November. The Indian dhow "Al Kausar" and its 11 Indian crew members were hijacked by pirates on 31 March 2017 while it was heading towards Somali coast, and was safely rescued by Somali Forces on 12 April 2017.

The Mission in collaboration with UN Organizations in Somalia celebrated the third International Day of Yoga in Mogadishu on 17 June 2017. High Commission organized the first-ever consular camp in Mogadishu in over 2 decades on 1 October 2017. A team from Mission visited the state of Puntland in Somalia in May 2017.

India has always remained one of the preferred destinations for Somali students. From April to November 2017, Somalia availed 11 slots under ICCR, ITEC and India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS III) scholarship schemes. From January to November 2017, Mission issued 4,756 visas to Somali nationals.

We gave US\$ 1 million as Government of India's contribution towards the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) on 31 August 2017.

117 Somali nationals lodged in Indian jail on charges of piracy will return to Somalia on completion of their sentences during January - February 2018.

## South Africa

The year 2017 marked the 20 years of signing of the Red Fort Declaration for Strategic Partnership between India and South Africa. The Declaration was signed in March 1997 by the Prime Minister of India Shri Deva Gowda and President of South Africa Nelson Mandela in New Delhi.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Red Fort Declaration of Strategic Partnership between India and South Africa, an India-South Africa Cultural Extravaganza comprising of a music and dance show, a curtain raiser event was organized by the Mission in Pretoria on 9 April 2017. Ms. Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology representing the government of South Africa and Mr. David van Rooyen, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and spouse graced the occasion with their presence. Former First Lady Ms. Zanele Dlamini Mbeki, wife of former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki also graced the occasion. The event was well-attended by members of the diplomatic corps, senior officials of the South Africa government including the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and members of the Indian community.

The Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Shri (Dr.) Harsh Vardhan, accompanied by a delegation of senior officers and scientists, paid an official visit to South Africa from 4-6 October 2017 and participated in a series of events in Cape Town and Durban organized to commemorate the 20th anniversary of India-South Africa cooperation in Science & Technology. During the visit he held a bilateral meeting with the South African Minister of Science & Technology Ms. Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor; eight new projects on astronomy were launched to help augment the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope project led by South Africa, in which Indian scientists were contributing in several design work packages of SKA; a multi-institutional project on HIV Vaccine Research Collaboration was initiated; and Gandhi-Mandela Grass-Roots Innovation Programme (aimed towards sharing of open source technologies and IPR protection of traditional knowledge systems) was launched. The visit opened a new chapter of cooperation in Science & Technology, in areas of astronomy, astro-physics, grass-roots innovation in science and technology, renewable energy and the blue economy.

MoS for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh visited South Africa from 16 - 18 October 2017 to attend the 17th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on 18 October and 8th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission in Durban on 17 October 2017 in Durban. On the sidelines of the meetings, MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh had a bilateral meeting with South African Minister of International Relations & Cooperation, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh had

an audience with King Goodwill Zwelithini, King of Zulu nation and gifted two tractors from India to the Zulu People. In Durban he inaugurated the GoI donated kitchen and dining room facilities at the Ramakrishna Abalindi old age home; inaugurated the GoI donated Information Technology Centre at Phoenix Settlement; and officially opened the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Exhibition. He interacted with members of the Indian community of Durban at a reception hosted in his honour.

Dr. S.K. Pattanayak, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare accompanied by a delegation visited South Africa to attend the 2nd India - South Africa Sanitary & Phytosanitary Committee meeting in Cape Town from 28 August - 4 September 2017 and also discussed market access issues with the South African side.

The 1st India-South Africa JWG meeting on ICT was held on 27 November 2017 at Electronics Niketan, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. South African delegation attended the GCCS 2017 held in New Delhi.

The Indian Naval Ship Tarkash, led by Commanding Officer Capt. Rituraj Sahu visited Cape Town from 21-24 June 2017 on a goodwill visit. Yoga Day event and a reception on board were organised on 21 June 2017. During the visit, Capt. Rituraj Sahu called on Rear Admiral Lesley Katernic, the Chief of Fleet Staff, South African Navy.

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini, All Women Indian Crew, is currently on her circumnavigation of the earth and is expected to call at Cape Town in February/March 2018. At an Exhibition event themed "Women Changing India" in Johannesburg held on 31 October 2017, a video of INSV Tarini was shown and High Commissioner made remarks about the voyage at the exhibition. An event was organised on 30 November 2017 in Pretoria to commemorate the Indian Navy Day 2017 & the All Women Crew of Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini. At this event High Commissioner had a live chat with the Women Crew.

The Mission/Posts in South Africa celebrated the 3rd International Day of Yoga across South Africa in various cities from 14 June - 25 June 2017 in collaboration/assistance with local associations and organisations. Events such as paint the t-shirt with Yoga asana for young children, quiz on yoga, essay writing competition, lectures on yoga were part of the celebration in addition to Yoga day performances at historic

venues in Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Tolstoy Farm, Durban, Chatsworth, Polokwane and Lenasia.

The Mission celebrated the 70th anniversary of India's Independence. A grand reception was hosted by the High Commissioner on 15 August 2017. Dr Siyabonga Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services was the Chief Guest and represented the Government of South Africa. Mr. Enver Surty, Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Mr. Andries Nel, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and the diaspora attended the reception. About 350 guests were present. A recital by violin maestro, Dr. L Subramaniam was the highlight of the cultural entertainment which also formed a curtain raiser programme for the 'India-South Africa Shared History' celebrations. A flag-hoisting ceremony was held in the Chancery premises in the morning which was attended by friends of India and their families, officials from Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) India desk and the members of the High Commission and their families.

The 4th World Tamils Economic Conference was held in Durban from 16-18 November 2017. The High Commissioner Ms. Ruchira Kamboj made the keynote address at the inaugural session of the Conference. The King of the Zulu Nation, the Vice President of Mauritius Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Minister for Tamil Culture and Development Government of Tamil Nadu, the Deputy Speaker, Puducherry and Mr Logie Naidoo, former Speaker of Thekwini Municipality attended the event.

In the Financial Year 2017-18, under ITEC, 80 slots were allocated to South Africa, out of which, 17 slots were utilized so far. ICCR offered a total of 52 slots to South Africa in 2017-18 out of which so far 23 were utilized.

ITEC Day was celebrated at the Chancery in Pretoria on 13 September 2017. Among the invited guests were participants in the ITEC programme (alumni) and representatives of Departments of the Government of South Africa including: DIRCO (India desk) and Diplomatic Training and International School; Public Service Administration (DPSA); Agriculture; Telecommunications and Postal Services; Trade & Industry (The DTI); Energy; Higher Education and Training; SA Navy Training; Transport; Vaal University of Technology; Council for Geo-science; Public works, National Treasury and Gauteng Department of Finance.

President Jacob Zuma extended Deepavali wishes to all the Hindu, Tamil, Gujarati and other communities in South Africa on 18 October 2017.

## South Sudan

The country is mired in civil and ethnic warfare since December 2013, immediately after getting independence after secession from Sudan in July 2011. The situation of internal disturbance is hampering our bilateral cooperation. Around 2400 Indian troopers remain engaged with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

Prof. Abednego Akok Kacuol Tong, Chairman, National Elections Commission led a three member delegation for training-cum-consultation visit to Election Commission of India, New Delhi from 22-25 August 2017.

A 5 member Kathak Dance Troupe sponsored by ICCR visited South Sudan in November 2017 and gave three scintillating performances. The visit garnered wide publicity. The South Sudan government has been appreciative of the capacity building schemes of the Government of India. From the revised allocation of 100 slots for South Sudan under the ITEC Programme for the year 2017-18, 105 sanctions have been received, in excess of allotted slots.

## Sudan

The relations between India and Sudan continue to be warm and cordial.

A 10-Member troupe from Goa Kala Academy Dance Academy under the aegis of ICCR on the occasion of celebration of India@70 visited Sudan from 18-21 May 2017. The troupe gave two performances, one in Khartoum on 18 May 2017 and another one in Wad-Medani. The performances were well received and the State Minister of Culture was the Chief Guest at Khartoum.

The Mission celebrated 142nd Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel on 31 October 2017 and an event was organized in Indian School, Omdurman where the students participated in Essay competition. Another event was organized in cooperation with Indian Friendship Club. A photo exhibition of Sardar Patel was organized and two short films on the life of Sardar Patel were shown during the event. Professor A. G. Alfadil from Al-Neelein University was the keynote speaker.

CII-Exim Bank organized a Regional Conclave on India-East Africa in Kampala on 20 & 21 November 2017. Two high level functionaries, Eng. Alfaki and Eng. Ibrahim Habib from High Committee for Developing Relations with Brazil, Russia, India, China and Sudan (BRICS) countries, which is headed by President Bashir himself, attended the conclave.

## Swaziland

India's relations with Swaziland became more substantive over the past year, particularly after the visit of King of Swaziland Mswati-III to India in March 2017 as the Guest of Honour for the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave.

On 22-23 August 2017, Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa) Dr. Neena Malhotra, visited Swaziland for broad-ranging talks on how India can support King Mswati-III's vision of evolving Swaziland into a modern country. She interacted with a range of Swazi dignitaries, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Information Technology, the Minister of Trade & Industry, the Foreign Secretary, and the Health Secretary. During her discussions, the Swazi leaders expressed appreciation for two high-quality projects financed by India in the Kingdom, for building an IT Centre and for augmenting the productivity of maize. The visit helped identify several new areas for future projects.

Swazi ICT Minister Mr. Dumsani Ndlangamandla visited India to participate in the Global Conference on Cyber-Space on 23-24 November 2018.

## Tanzania

India's relations with Tanzania advanced further during the year in terms of bilateral engagements, economic & business ties, development partnership, people-level relations and understanding on international matters. The government-level contacts included the bilateral visits of the Tanzanian Minister of Trade, Industry & Investment, Mr. Charles J. Mwijage; Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee & Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba; Secretary (DSIR), Dr. Girish Sahni and Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa). There were exchanges of several business, academic and cultural delegations and ship visits in the context of bilateral cooperation on hydrography. Tanzania extended support to India in various international forums, including UNGA, UNESCO, IMO, etc during the period. Tanzanian MP

Mariam Ditopile attended young African MPs familiarization programme in India.

FIEO participated at the 13th Tanzania Trade Show in November 2017 with over 42 participating companies. Other business delegations included those by Kerala Cashew Board Ltd and Indian Oil in November 2017, Incredible India pavilion at Swahili International Tourism Expo in October 2017, PLASTINDIA Roadshow in September 2017, East African International Trade Expo in August 2017, and Study in India Expo in May 2017. Business roundtable and trade exhibitions were held in the regions of Arusha in May 2017 and Tanga in June 2017. From Tanzania, a business delegation attended the Tanzania-India Business & Investment Forum meeting in New Delhi in August 2017. Tanzanian delegations also attended a number of fairs in India including IPHEX-2017 in April, India International Footwear Fair in August 2017, I for Afrika Conference in November 2017, etc.

President of Tanzania, Dr. John P.J. Magufuli launched the completion of Ruvu water supply project under an Indian credit line providing drinking water to over 700,000 residents of Dar es Salaam. Another project under Indian line of credit for water supply to western Tanzania was launched by the President of Tanzania on 24 July 2017 for execution over two and a half years. India's support of class IX-XII NCERT books for Mathematics and Science were received by the Minister of Education, Science & Technology of Tanzania. ITEC training programmes continued to attract considerable interest with the participation of over 300 officials and experts from Tanzania during the year.

Longstanding and active cultural relations between India and Tanzania progressed through cultural exchanges and launch of an AYUSH Information Cell in Dar es Salaam. The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated on a large scale at Dar es Salaam and also in regional towns of Zanzibar, Tanga, Moshi, Arusha, Mwanza, Tabora, Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbeya, Iringa, Lindi and Mtwara. Five ICCR sponsored cultural groups performed during this period and Hindi Divas was held in September 2017. Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam visited universities in Delhi and Mumbai for future exchanges, especially on African & Indian studies. The Chair of Indian studies at the University of Dar es Salaam commenced with the joining of ICCR appointed professor in November.

## Togo

India and Togo continued to enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. International Day of Yoga was successfully celebrated in Lomé on 24 June 2017. To mark Freedom@70 celebrations, a performance by an Odissi Dance troupe sponsored by Ministry of Culture was organized on 9 August 2017 which was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, senior officials from Togolese government, members from all walks of life and Indian community. Total bilateral trade between India and Togo for 2016-17 was US\$ 454.12 million with imports accounting for US\$ 138.42 million and exports to US\$ 315.70 million. Togo continued to be supportive of India's candidatures in all international/UN bodies including for the ICJ. Togo has signed the ISA International Framework Agreement. Its ratification is awaited.

## Tunisia

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj met Tunisian Foreign Minister Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui on the margins of UNGA in New York on 18 September 2017 to review bilateral relations.

Mr. Khemais Jhenaoui, Foreign Minister of Tunisia visited New Delhi in October 2017 to co-chair with EAM, the 12th Session of the India-Tunisia Joint Commission Meeting. This was the first time the JCM was held at the Foreign Ministerial level. MoUs on Cooperation in Youth Exchanges; Cooperation in Judicial Matters; Setting up of Soil, Water and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory (SWTL) in Tunisia, under IAFS III were signed. Also MoUs between institutions viz. FIEO and CEPEX Tunisia; FICCI and UTICA of Tunisia and STPI and Elgazala Park Tunisia were signed. Three separate business meetings and B2Bs were organised for the Tunisian trade delegation, which accompanied the Tunisian Foreign Minister.

Three young Tunisian Parliamentarians visited India from 29 July - 6 August 2017 under XP Division's familiarization programme for young MPs from Africa. Mrs. Ouided Bouchamaoui, President of Tunisian Union of Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts (UTICA), which was one of the quartet to win the Noble Peace Prize 2015 visited India under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors Programme from 27 August - 4 September 2017. Mrs. Badra Gaaloul, Director General of Centre for International Strategic and Military Studies visited India from 24-29 April 2017 as part of ICCR's Academic Visitor's Programme.

Dr. Radwan Masmoudi, President of the Center of the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID), a non-profit think tank of Tunisia, visited India under the ICCR's Academic Visitors Programme from 4 – 13 September 2017. A business meeting and tourism promotion event was organised on 25 April 2017 for marketing Ayurveda and holistic well-being packages offered by Ayurveda spas in Kerala. The opportunity was also utilized to showcase a complete ensemble of cultural and tourism opportunities in Kerala.

A five-member composite delegation from Ministry of Ayush and its ancillary offices and a private Ayurveda products company took part in the first International Congress of Phytotherapy 2017 in Monastir, Tunisia from 29 April – 1 May 2017, as a follow-up of the JWG meeting on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals.

A Catalogue Show of Indian companies was organised at the international exhibition of Agriculture, Agricultural Machineries and Fisheries (SIAMAP 2017) held from 31 October - 5 November 2017 in Tunis. A 6-member ICCR-sponsored Odissi dance group participated in the El-Hemma International Festival, in the Governorate of Gabes (450 kms from Tunis) from 11-15 April 2017. The group staged six performances in different towns and villages in the Gabes Governorate.

As part of India@70 celebrations in Tunisia, a nine-member Kathak dance troupe sponsored by Ministry of Culture presented performances in Tunis and three other cities from 27-31 July 2017. A 10-member Rajasthani cultural troupe sponsored by ICCR visited Tunisia from 8-21 August 2017 under CEP and performed at summer festivals organized at several towns in the interior regions of Tunisia.

A month-long Incredible India tourism promotion campaign was launched through billboard advertisements at prominent landmarks in Tunis in August 2017. An Indian Bollywood dance group “Bharati” staged a very well received performance at the prestigious annual Carthage International Festival on the closing day 18 August 2017 in Tunisia. Prestigious Rostom Foundation organized a cultural fiesta “India Night” on 27 August 2017. A Qawwali group sponsored by ICCR and another troupe “Gypsi of Rajasthan” performed in open theatre format. Under Paryatan campaign, a month long India tourism campaign was launched through Incredible India posters on city buses in the capital Tunis.

The Mission celebrated ITEC Day on 13 October 2017. More than 100 ITEC beneficiaries attended the event.

The period also saw visits by an eight-member Indian Table Tennis junior and cadet team to participate in the World TT Junior Circuit held in Tunis from 3-7 April 2017. Indian Mini Football team participated in the 2nd edition of the world Mini Football Federation World Cup from 6-15 October 2017 in the coastal city of Nabeul in Tunisia.

Tunisian Government has introduced visa exemption scheme for Indian tourists from 1 October 2017.

The Mission took part in the prestigious catalogue show ‘Med Franchise 2017’ held in Tunis on 6-7 December 2017. Product catalogues of Indian companies representing various sectors were displayed and distributed to Tunisian business community.

A five-member Tunisian music band visited India from 9-20 December 2017. The visit was sponsored by ICCR under the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP).

The 1st India-Tunisia Security Dialogue between National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies (TISS) took place on 14 December 2017 in New Delhi. Mr. Neji Jalloul, Director General, TISS led the Tunisian delegation to India from 13-15 December 2017.

The 1st stand-alone Counter Terrorism Dialogue between India and Tunisia was held in Tunis on 11-12 January 2018.

Following the 12th session of India-Tunisia joint commission, a twenty-one member trade delegation organized by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) will visit Tunis on 15-17 January 2017.

To celebrate India@70, an Odissi dance group to be sponsored by the Ministry of Culture is proposed to visit Tunisia in January 2018.

On the occasion of Republic Day of India, ICCR-sponsored Manipur cultural troupe will visit Tunisia under the CEP to stage several performances in the capital Tunis and other cities.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport of India, a twenty-five member of Young Women Delegation from Tunisia will visit India from 26 February - 5 March 2018.

A team from Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is expected to visit Tunisia from 5-9 February 2018 to conduct one week capacity development programme in international finance for Tunisia officials under India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS).

A scholar from ASCI is scheduled to visit in February 2018 at the invitation of Higher Institute of Economy and Commerce (IHEC) to impart training to business schools and the National School of Administration on best practices of governance.

A food festival sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism of India shall be held in Tunis in January – February 2018. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Tunisia, Festival of India in Tunisia will be launched in Tunis on 26 January 2018.

100 ITEC slots allocated to Tunisia during the current financial year shall be utilised fully. Nineteen IAFS slots have been utilised by end December 2017.

## Uganda

India donated an amount of US\$ 1 million for refugees living in Uganda at the Uganda Solidarity Summit for Refugees held in Kampala on 22-23 June 2017.

An EXIM Bank of India led business delegation visited Uganda from 4-7 June 2017 to explore investment opportunities for Indian businessmen in Uganda.

CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India-East Africa, Partners in development, was held in Kampala from 20-21 November 2017 where over 500 delegates attended the Conclave from many countries including India, Tanzania, UK, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, Japan and other East African Countries. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary. The conclave was inaugurated by the President of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The Conclave facilitated discussions for bilateral, economic and business capabilities. An exhibition was also organised during the event where different companies showcased their products. The valedictory session was attended by the Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr. Ruhukana Rugunda and several Ministers from Ministry of Trade, Finance and Energy.

India offered 30 ICCR scholarships and 125 ITEC slots. Besides, 16 Ugandans availed IAFS training programmes in various fields. Two Ugandans availed Special Agricultural Fellowships and CV Raman Fellowships each. Pan-African e-Network Project continues to run successfully in Uganda.

India included Uganda in the e-visa facility from 1 July 2017.

A series of events was held to mark the 3rd International Day

of Yoga in Uganda, including;

- A yoga session for Ambassadors, their spouses and prominent members from various international organisations on 16 June 2017,
- A yoga Session near the source of River Nile,
- Yoga Sessions in various schools from 19-22 June 2017
- Yoga Sessions in Bank of Baroda, at Mbale. The main Yoga day celebrations were held at Lohana Academy Kampala where over 1300 participants were present.

On 2 October 2017, a “Gandhi Charakha” was unveiled at the Gandhi Heritage site at the source of the Nile River. Mr. Victor Ochen, Noble peace prize nominee from Uganda, Ugandan State Minister for Tourism and other high dignitaries from Ugandan Government also attended the vibrant event. In all, it was attended by more than 200 people including prominent members of the Indian community.

The Mission, in conjunction with the Indian Association of Uganda, celebrated the National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas), Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Uganda on 31 October 2017. An event was organized at the Delhi Public School International (DPSI) during which a short documentary on the life and contribution of Sardar Patel was shown. A quiz competition on the life and contribution of Sardar Patel was also organized at DPSI after the event. A blood donation camp was also organized. Special screening of the movie ‘Sardar’ was also held at a cinema hall.

President Museveni hosted the fourth Annual Diwali Celebrations at the State House on 8th December 2017 for the Indian Community. The event was attended by the High Commissioner along with prominent Indians of the Indian Community in Uganda. President commended the Indian community for its contribution to Uganda’s development. He encouraged Indian business persons to invest in Uganda and take advantage of the immense potential that Uganda offers in various sectors.

## Zambia

Zambia has supported India’s candidature at the International Court of Justice, UNESCO and the International Maritime Organization, an Indication of Zambia’s goodwill and friendship.

In April 2017, a 16-member EEPC delegation visited Zambia and held a buyer-seller meet in Lusaka on 4 April 2017. In

addition, a number of business delegates visited Zambia for exploring trade and investment opportunities.

On 19 April 2017, a Zambian Health Ministry delegation, led by Permanent Secretary [Technical] attended the Third India-Africa Health Forum in New Delhi. Also on 6-7 April 2017, Dr. William Kilembe, Director, Zambia-Emory HIV Research Project attended an expert working group meeting for establishing health research collaboration organized by the Indian Council of Medical Research in New Delhi. A delegation from the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in the 3rd Edition of Global Exhibition on Services in New Delhi in April 2017.

Finance Minister Felix Mutati attended the annual meetings of the Africa Development Bank in Gujarat in May 2017.

Two Zambian Parliamentarians, Mr. Kalalwe Musoka and Mr. Yizukanji Siwanji, attended a MEA-organised familiarization programme in New Delhi from 30 July to 5th August. Zambian officials also participated in various events such as Cyber space conference as also various trade-related events in India.

During the period [2016-17], bilateral trade continued to grow, crossing US\$ 980 million with an increase of about 27 % over the previous year.

Economic and development Cooperation is the main feature of India's engagement with Zambia. India provides economic assistance to Zambia and assists in a wide range of skill development and training courses offered under ITEC programmes [90 candidates annually]; specialized programmes under India-Africa Forum Summit [about 25 students] and ICCR-sponsored scholarship [17 students annually]. So far, around 3000 civilian Zambians were trained in India in various disciplines. Under the CV Raman fellowship programme, Prof. Ivans Kaimoyo of the University of Zambia, Lusaka, was selected for participation at the Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad.

In February 2016, India approved a Line of Credit of US\$40mn for Zambia's agricultural mechanization programme and the two sides were working towards its early operationalization. In order to facilitate completion of ongoing project of setting up of 650 primary health posts across Zambia, in October 2017, GoI approved an additional LoC of US\$ 18 million [earlier in 2013, India had extended an LoC of US\$ 50 million]. Out of 650, 273 duly completed health posts were handed over to Zambian authorities.

In November 2017, India approved donation of "Made in India" medical equipments to Zambia worth about US\$ 1 million as humanitarian assistance. Earlier, India approved a concessional loan of US\$ 245 million for Lusaka decongestion Project. India included Zambia in the second phase [2016-2020] of its ongoing Cotton Technical Assistance Programme [CTAP].

The Mission celebrated the International Yoga Day on 18th June, which was attended by a cross-section of persons numbering about 125.

For setting up of the Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Zambia, an outcome of IAFS.II, a team from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmadabad EDII-A is likely to visit Zambia in January-February, 2018 to carry out preliminary assessment.

## Zimbabwe

Mr. R.P. Mphoko, Vice-President of Zimbabwe visited New Delhi on a private visit from 7-16 April 2017. Though a private visit, he met with the representatives of several business houses.

The Minister of Welfare Services for War Veterans, War Collaborators Mr. Tshinga Dube visited India in May 2017. Mr. Patrick Chinamasa, Minister for Finance and Economic Development visited India for the 52nd Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the 43rd Meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund (ADF) held from 22-26 May 2017 in Ahmedabad. The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education Mr. Jonathan Moyo visited India in April 2017. The Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education Mr. Godfrey Gandawa was in India in July 2017. The Minister of SME Ms. S.G.G. Nyoni visited India in August 2017. The Minister of Tourism Dr. Walter Mzembe was in India in September 2017. The Minister of Information, media and Broadcasting Mr. Christopher Chindeti Mushohwe visited India in October 2017.

India extended a cash donation of US \$ 1 million and 500 tons of rice in kind to the Government of Zimbabwe in June 2017 and November 2017 respectively, in response to an international appeal made by Zimbabwe in the wake of severe flood that destroyed crops and infrastructure.

A US\$ 1 million Vocational Training Centre (VTC) donated by the GoI and executed by the National Small Industry



Corporation (NSIC) of India was completed and handed over to the Government of Zimbabwe in October 2017.

A high-level business delegation from Zimbabwe including officials from the Government, Representatives from Business Chambers visited India from 13-17 November 2017 to enhance business ties between the two nations under the theme “I for Africa”. During their visit, the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) signed an MoU with the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCI) on Technology transfer and business collaboration in various sectors, including education. A nine-member business delegation led by CII participated in the Business Conference hosted by Confederation of Zimbabwe Industry (CZI) in August. A five-member delegation from Acharya Institutes, Bangalore participated in an event themed “National Innovation Systems for competitive Industries: International experiences” organized by the World Bank in collaboration with the Mission.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in nine locations-Rusape and Muttare (10-11 June 2017), Harare Institute of technology (14 June 2017), Qwekwe and Qweru (17-18 June 2017), Harare and Domboshva (18 June 2017), Bulawayo (24 June 2017) and Victoria Falls (25 June 2017).

The 2nd edition of the ten day ‘India in the Sunshine festival’ was organized in August 2017. The festival was much expanded and included celebration of a full day ‘India Day’ and several other items showcasing India’s rich cultural heritage which included art exhibition –‘Mahatma in Me’, Bollywood, music, Dance, Theatre, Yoga Food, Film festival. The festival also provided a platform for collaboration with local artists who were an integral part of the festival. The festival was supported by ICCR and XP Division.

Besides, there were several exchanges of cultural troupes and artists. They included a 11 member “Rangla Punjab” dance troupe performing “Bhangra” in the Harare International Festival of Arts (HIFA) in May 2017, a 10-member Manipuri dance troupe participating in the 4th edition of the Harare International Carnival in Harare in September 2017 and a 13-member Zimbabwean-Hwamanda Dance Troupe which participated at the International Dance festival in Ahmedabad and Sangai Festival in Manipur. The troupe also performed in Kolkota and in Delhi in November 2017.

The Mission organized a “Business Meeting” in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Enterprise Development and Zimbabwe-India Chamber of Commerce (ZICC) on 18 December 2017.



## Europe & European Union

### Albania

Bilateral relations are friendly and remain one of mutual trust, mutual understanding. India and Albania cooperate on an issue-based approach in multilateral fora. The 3rd International Day of Yoga was held in Tirana.

### Andorra

Relations between India and Principality of Andorra remain cordial and friendly. Andorra supported India's candidature of Judge Dalveer Bhandari for re-election to the International Court of Justice. Both countries are currently in the process of negotiating a draft Tax Information Exchange Agreement.

### Austria

Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern met Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a bilateral meeting in St. Petersburg on 2 June 2017 on the side lines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

Minister of State (I/C) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, visited Vienna to participate in the Vienna Energy Forum from 10-12 May 2017. Shri Goyal addressed the India Austria Business Forum, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO) and FICCI.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Vienna on 21-23 May 2017 for the second India-OPEC dialogue.

### Belgium

Belgium was among the first European countries to establish diplomatic relations with independent India, in September 1947. India's bilateral relations with Belgium are warm and friendly based on shared commonalities as two mature democracies committed to the rule of law, federalism and pluralism.



*Vice President meeting with King Philippe of Belgium in New Delhi on 7 November 2017.*

The bilateral relations have been further energized with the successful visit of the King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of the Belgians to India from 5-11 November 2017. The visit assumed significance as India and Belgium celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations in 2017. The royal couple were accompanied by Mr. Didier Reynders – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign & European Affairs, Mr. Geert Bourgeois – Minister-President of the Government Flanders, Mr. Willy Borsus – Minister-President of the Walloon Government, Mr. Rudy Demotte – Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation Government and a number of senior officials. The Royal couple was also accompanied by a high powered business delegation comprising of CEOs of 90 Belgian companies, 13 heads of academic institutions and a 30-member media delegation.

Their Majesties, during their stay in Delhi, paid homage to Father of the Nation at Raj Ghat and laid a wreath at the India Gate. They also inaugurated an exhibition titled, 'India & Belgium on the Centenary of Great War' at Manekshaw Center and released a coffee-table book 'India in Flanders Fields' to commemorate the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers in defence of Belgium in First World War. They also visited the Taj Mahal in Agra. Queen Mathilde, apart from the official activities in the company of the King devoted time to visit the 'Childline' facility at Gurugram, Haryana. In Mumbai, His Majesty called on the Governor of Maharashtra, participated in a remembrance ceremony at the Memorial of the 2008 terrorist attack at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, visited Oval Maidan for a cricket demonstration, and a cultural programme.

Their Majesties also took part in various business and academic seminars organized during the visit. A total of 13 business seminars were organized; 8 in Delhi and 5 in Mumbai. The seminars in Delhi focused on smart use of resources, personalized healthcare, innovation, industry 4.0, sustainability, S&T cooperation, Belgian technologies for heavy industry and food processing. The seminars in Mumbai focused on best practices for diamond trade, solutions for smart cities and industries, life sciences and healthcare, digitization and exploring business opportunities in India. King Philippe's visit came at a time when political and business leaders in Belgium have begun to show increasing interest in India drawn by India's growing stature in global polity and the

growing business opportunities in the country. There is a strong Belgian interest in expanding trade and investment links with India and equally in attracting Indian investment into Belgium. The diamond industry in Antwerp is an important connection with India. In all about 38 Agreements covering smart cities, academic and business cooperation will be signed during the visit.

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign & European Affairs on the sidelines of 72nd UNGA in New York on 19 September 2017. Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar and Supreme Court judge, Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur paid a visit to Belgium on 12-15 June 2017 at the invitation of the Constitutional Court of Belgium. They met the Presidents of the Constitutional Courts of Belgium and exchanged views on the functioning of the judiciary and judicial systems in India and Belgium including division and separation of powers; independence of the judiciary with special emphasis on appointment of Judges; and expression of views on the relationship of the judiciary vis-à-vis the European Courts.

Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma visited the Federal Region of Wallonia, Belgium from 16-19 May 2017, accompanied by an official delegation. During the visit, the delegation explored possibilities of collaboration in agriculture, healthcare, sports, science and technology, urban development, eco-system management, sustainable business, environment and art and culture. Mr. Pieter De Crem, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade of Belgium, led a trade delegation to Mumbai and Ahmedabad in India from 24-28 April 2017. Mr. Crem's visit marked the formal inauguration of the Brussels-Mumbai Passenger Air Services operated by Brussels Airlines. In Ahmedabad, Mr. De Crem announced opening of a new Belgian Honorary Consulate and visited the Indian Institute for Public Health, Gandhinagar.

The annual commemoration ceremony for the Indian soldiers, who participated in the World War I, took place on 12 November 2017 at the Indian Memorial in Ypres, Belgium. The commemoration also included the annual Indian Army Memorial Concert on 11 November 2017 at Knokke Heist in Belgium. Two bagpipers from Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre of the Indian Army performed at the concert.



*President Shri Ram Nath Kovind accompanied by First Lady and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi receiving President Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium at Rashtrapathi Bhavan for the forecourt ceremony on 7 November 2017*

India's Joint Commission Meeting with the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (India-BLEU JCM); established in 1997; is the main vehicle for discussing the bilateral economic and commercial issues. The biennial JCM is held alternatively in the three countries followed by a yearly mid-term review. The 15th India- BLEU JCM took place on 29 May 2017 in Luxembourg. The JEC was co-Chaired by Mr. Gaston Stronck, Director for European and International Economic Affairs of the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Mr. Gregoire Curvelier, Deputy Director General for Bilateral Affairs in the Belgian Foreign Ministry on the BLEU side and Ms. Anita Praveen, Joint Secretary Department of Commerce, on the Indian side. The two sides held discussions on wide range of areas of mutual interest to take economic and trade engagement forward.

According to DGFT trade figures, bilateral trade in 2016-17, amounted to US\$ 12.27 billion (-7.6%) compared to US\$ 13.28 billion in 2015-16. In 2016-17, Belgium had a trade surplus of US\$ 967 million. India's exports to Belgium in 2016-17 totalled US\$ 5.65 billion (+13%) compared to exports of US \$ 5.02 billion in 2015-16. India's imports from Belgium in 2016-17 totalled US\$ 6.62 billion (-20%) compared to US\$ 8.25 billion of imports in 2015-16. Bilateral trade is dominated by the Gems & Jewellery sector. The cumulative FDI inflows from Belgium into India amounted to

US\$ 1.11 billion during April 2000 to June 2017 which is still relatively small, being about 0.33% of the total FDI inflows in India.

There are around 160 Belgian companies present in India. They operate in sectors such as machinery, health, chemicals, renewable energy, railways, ports and logistics, infrastructure, dredging, visualization solutions, food and beverages and engineering. Indian companies have also been investing in Belgium. Several Indian companies, particularly in the IT and software sectors, such as TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and HCL, have established base in Belgium to cater to the Belgian as well as European markets.

## **Bosnia & Herzegovina**

An 18-member Indian delegation of businessmen from India, led by the Honorary Consul of Bosnia & Herzegovina, visited Sarajevo in April 2017 and called on Chairman of Council of Ministers, Mr. Denis Zvizdic and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Josip Brkic.

A delegation of 34 businessmen from India participated at the Sarajevo Business Forum held on 22-23 May 2017. India was one of the focus countries at the 8th edition of the Forum.

India participated in the 39th Sarajevo Tourism Festival from 18-21 October 2017, as a 'Partner Country'.

Mr. Ismir Jusko, Minister of Communication and Transport, visited India from 12-16 November 2017 and participated at the World Road Meeting 2017, as well as the Transport Ministers' Forum, organized by the International Road Federation.

## Bulgaria

Balkan-India Business Association (BIBA), Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ECSEPC) and Bulgarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized a business forum in Sofia on 25 September 2017. A Memorandum of Cooperation was also signed between ECSEPC and BIBA.

## Croatia

The bilateral Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed during visit of Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, then Minister of

Commerce and Industry on 14 February 2017. The first India-Croatia Joint Business Council was also set-up comprising of corporate leaders and academics. The first Joint Economic Committee meeting took place in New Delhi on 8 November 2017.

The Indian company ACG Worldwide acquired a Croatian IT company IN2 Trace, specialised in pharmaceutical serialization solutions, and opened its office in Zagreb on 13 October 2017. Infosys officially opened an office in Karlovac on 24 April 2017, taking over part of GE operations and making it a primary engineering delivery centre in Europe.

## Cyprus

Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Cyprus from 30 March – 1 April 2017 and met the President of Republic of Cyprus, Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of House of Representatives.



*Nicos Anastasiades President of the Republic of Cyprus addressing at the Cyprus India Business Forum on 26 April 2017.*

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Nicos Anastasiades, was on a State Visit to India from 25-29 April 2017. The President of Cyprus was accompanied by Minister of Finance Mr. Haris Georgiades, Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Mr. Georgios Lakkotrypīs, Minister of Transport, Communication and Works Mr. Marios Demetriades, Minister of Agriculture, Rural

Development and Environment Mr. Nicos Kouyalis and government spokesman Mr. Nikos Christodoulides.

During the visit, the then President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee held a meeting with President Anastasiades. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Anastasiades on 28 April 2017. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj called on President Anastasiades.

The following MoUs were signed during the visit:

- (i) Merchant Shipping Agreement
- (ii) Air Services Agreement
- (iii) Executive Programme on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation
- (iv) Work plan Under programme of Cooperation in the field of agriculture for 2017-18

## Czech Republic

India was the partner country at the International Engineering Fair held from 9-13 October 2017 in Brno, inaugurated by MoS for Commerce & Industry, Shri C R Chaudhary, along with the CM of Jharkhand Shri Raghubar Das. MoS Shri CR Chaudhary also met President Mr. Milos Zeman, Senate President Mr. Milan Stech and Trade & Industry Minister Mr. Jiri Havilicek.

A delegation led by Mr. Radek Vondracek, Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) visited India from 29

May - 3 June 2017.

A delegation led by Mr. Daniel Herman, Minister of Culture visited India on 11 September 2017 and met Minister of Culture, Shri Mahesh Sharma. The Czech Chief of Defence Forces General Josef Becvar led a delegation to India from 16-19 October 2017.

## Denmark

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries visited Copenhagen for the 'World Food Summit' from 23-25 August 2017, marking the first Ministerial visit from India to Denmark in 6 years. Danish Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen met EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj on 18 September 2017 in New York on the margins of UNGA to discuss bilateral relations.

Air India began direct flights on the Copenhagen - New Delhi sector from 16 September 2017. It is the only direct air link between Denmark and India. The flights are operating with high occupancy levels of 80-85 %.



*Anders Samuelsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark calls on Prime Minister in Hyderabad on the sidelines of Global Entrepreneurship Summit - 2017 on 28 November 2017.*

Mr. Esben Lunde Larsen, Danish Minister of Food and Environment, visited India to attend 'World Food India 2017' from 1-5 November 2017 in New Delhi, where Denmark was a 'Partner Country'. A 'Letter of Intent on Cooperation in Agriculture' was signed.

Ms. Sophie Lohde, Danish Minister for Public Sector

Innovation participated in the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS 2017) from 23-26 November 2017 in New Delhi.

Danish Foreign Minister Mr. Anders Samuelsen visited India from 26-29 November 2017. He met EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj on 27 November 2017 in New Delhi. Mr. Anders

Samuelson also participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad where he called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Denmark participated as a Partner Country in Vibrant Gujarat Summit as well as at World Food India 2017 held in New Delhi.

## Estonia

MoS Shri M. J. Akbar, visited Estonia from 27-28 May 2017 and interacted with Foreign Minister, Mr. Sven Mikser.

MoS Shri M. J. Akbar and Minister Mikser also met in New York on 21 September 2017 on sidelines of the UNGA. Mr. Mikser met Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) on 20 November 2017 in Myanmar on sidelines of ASEM.

Dr. Sanjay Bahl, Director General, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) and a business delegation visited Estonia on 27-28 November 2017 to explore possibilities of cooperation in cyber security.

Both countries signed an Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced

Persons on 15 November 2016 which became effective from 1 March 2017.

## Finland

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Mr. Timo Soini visited India from 22-25 November 2017. Mr Soini had a meeting with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, in New Delhi on 24 November 2017. FM Soini also participated at the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 (GCCS 2017) on 23-24 November 2017.

Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of Housing of Finland visited India from 3-5 October 2017. Four MoU's in the field of energy and sustainable development were signed during the visit.

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Finland from 5-7 November 2017 and met Mr. Timo Soini, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr Peter Stenlund, Secretary of State Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister for Housing, Energy and Environment and Mr. Mauri Pekkarinen, Deputy Speaker and member of Asia-Europe Parliamentary Assembly.



*External Affairs Minister meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Timo Soini, in New Delhi on 24 November 2017.*

## France

India and France are 'strategic partners' with robust cooperation across sectors including defence, civil nuclear and

space. Trade and investment, renewable energy, smart cities, railways and infrastructure are some of the burgeoning areas of Indo-French bilateral cooperation.



*Prime Minister meeting the President of France, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, at Elysee Palace, in Paris on 3 June 2017.*

The momentum of India-France Strategic Partnership was maintained in 2017-18 with regular exchange of high-level visits. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Paris on 2-3 June 2017 and met with President Emmanuel Macron, the visit took place soon after the French Presidential election in May 2017. During the visit, the two leaders reiterated their strong commitment to further strengthen India-France strategic partnership. The Paris Climate Accord and the climate issue were prominently discussed. Following the

bilateral talks, President Macron joined Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in visiting Arc de Triomphe and laying a wreath to pay homage to the memory of the Indian soldiers who died fighting in France in the two World Wars. . Keeping up the momentum of bilateral ties, President Emmanuel Macron paid a state visit to India from 10-12 March 2018 and co-hosted the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance on 11 March 2018.



Major incoming visits from France during the year included the visit of Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Minister for Europe & Foreign Affairs from 17-19 November 2017. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and held meetings with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister and Shri R.K. Singh, MoS for Renewable Energy. He also visited Jaipur where he inaugurated the French cultural festival Bonjour India (November 2017 – February 2018). French Minister for Armed Forces, Ms. Florence Parly, visited India from 27-28 October 2017. She held talks with Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister. She also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and visited M/s Mazgon Dock Ltd. facility in Mumbai. She also visited Nagpur, where she inaugurated M/s Dassault- M/s Reliance joint venture manufacturing facility for the aviation sector.

Ms Brune Poirson, French Secretary of State for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, visited India from 30 August - 3 September 2017 and called on Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways; Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation; and Shri Piyush Goyal, the then MoS (I/C) for Power, New and Renewable Energy, Coal, and Mines; and Shri Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Ms. Françoise Nyssen, French Minister of Culture and Communication visited India from 29 January - 01 February 2018.

Major outgoing visits from India included the visit of Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance, and Corporate Affairs (and the then Minister for Defence) to France from 7-9 June 2018. The visit saw the signing of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) at a ceremony held at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris on 7 June 2017 reaffirming India's commitment to co-operate in the global efforts to tackle aggressive tax planning. Shri Jaitley also met Ms. Sylvie Goulard, the French Minister of Armed Forces and also held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart in French Ministry of Economy, Mr. Bruno le Maire. During this visit, the Minister met Mr. Pierre Gattaz, President of France's largest employer federation MEDEF and interacted with CEOs of top French companies. He also spoke at the "Afro-bytes" conference,

organized by MEDEF on ongoing cooperation with African countries.

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, then MoS (I/C), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, took part in the Ministerial Meeting for WTO Negotiations on the side-lines of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris on 8 June 2017. Shri C R Chaudhary, MoS for Commerce & Industry, led the Indian delegation for the 17th session of the Indo-French Joint Economic Committee Meeting (JCM) held in Paris on 24 October 2017. The French Minister of State for Europe & Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne led the French delegation. The Indian delegation also met the French Minister of State for Economy, Mr. Benjamin Griveaux as part of JCM meetings. Shri Chaudhary also held a bilateral meeting with the French Minister of Europe & Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian. Shri R.K. Singh, MoS (I/C) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, from 7-8 November 2017. He participated in the 2017 International Energy Agency Ministerial Meeting in Paris and on the side-lines of the meeting, held a bilateral meeting with French Secretary of State for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Ms. Brune Poirson. Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy visited France on 12 December 2017 to participate in the One Planet Summit in Paris.

Throughout the year, the bilateral institutional mechanisms progressed on their agenda through meetings. The India-France Strategic Dialogue was held in Paris on 28 June 2017. Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor (NSA) led the Indian delegation, while Mr. Philippe Etienne, Diplomatic Advisor to President Macron was the head of the French delegation. The NSA also called on the President of France Mr. Emmanuel Macron, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Europe, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian and Minister for Armed Forces, Ms. Florence Parly.

Mr. Philippe Etienne, Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the French Republic, visited India on 4 October 2017 for the India-France Strategic Dialogue with Shri Ajit Doval, NSA. During the course of his visit, Mr. Philippe Etienne called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, and Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Defence. Deputy National Security Advisor, Dr. Arvind Gupta led an Indian delegation to the Reunion Island, France from 24-25 April 2017. During the visit, he also met the Prefect of the Reunion Island Mr. Dominique Sorain.

Other regular mechanisms of bilateral consultations held were on the topics of Disarmament, Non-proliferation, Arms Control and Nuclear Cooperation (25 April 2017 in Paris), the inaugural India-France consultations on Africa (22 June 2017 in Paris), the Joint Working Group meeting on Sustainable Urban Development (5-7 September 2017 in Paris) and Migration and Mobility Partnership dialogue (23-24 November 2017 in Paris).

In the field of Defence, Air Chief Marshal B. S. Dhanoa, Chief of Air Staff visited France from 17-20 July 2017. He held a bilateral meeting with General A. Lanata, French Chief of Air Staff and visited French air bases and other establishments. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lamba visited France from 06-10 November 2017 and held meetings with the French Naval Chief Admiral – Christophe Prazuck, Chief of Joint Staff – General François Lecointre and Defence Minister of France – Ms. Florence Parly. India and France hold regular joint naval exercise named Ex-Varuna. The latest round of the exercise Varuna was held from 24 April - 3 May 2017 in Toulon, France. Three Indian Naval Ships, Mumbai, Trishul and Aditya participated in the exercise from the Indian side.

A ceremony for burial of the remains of two Indian soldiers, who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting in France during WW1, was held on 12 November 2017. Their remains had been discovered at Laventie in the Pas-de-Calais Department in 2016. Foundation ceremony of an Indian War Memorial was laid at the village of Villers Guislain on 2 December 2017. This memorial, in honour of the Indian Cavalry's contribution in Battle of Cambrai, is planned to be inaugurated in 2018.

In the field of Space cooperation, GSAT-17 communication satellite was launched from Kourou Space Center in French Guiana on-board Ariane-5 on 28 June 2017. Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Mr. Jean-Yves Le Gall, President Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) held a meeting on 17 November 2017 in Bengaluru to discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of marine awareness, geodesy and professional exchange programs between the two space agencies.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Paris on 17 June 2017 at Parc La Villette and on 18 June 2017 in the back drop of the iconic Eiffel Tower. Apart from Paris, the International Day of Yoga was celebrated with

great enthusiasm in various cities of France including Strasbourg, Marseilles, Nice, Villefranche-sur-Mer, Gretz, Annecy, Perrone, Bordeaux, La Rochelle, Lille, Lyon, Bandol, Auch, Beaumont-sur-Oise, Caen, Coulanges-lès-Nevers, Gouvieux, Metz, Montigny-le-Bretonneux, Morlaix, Murviel-lès-Montpellier, Nantes, Perpignan, Rennes, Toulouse, Sisco (Corsica) and the French overseas territories including Guadeloupe, Martinique and the Reunion Island.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of India's independence, Embassy of India in Paris is organizing 'India@70' celebrations in various cities of France. The Mission with the support of Ministry of Culture, Government of India held the inaugural cultural performances as part of India@70 at the Paris Town Hall on 27 October 2017 by presenting an Andhra Natyam dance drama led by Dr. Vedantam Ramani. The Embassy of India in Paris, with the assistance of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), organized an International Conference on 'Sanskrit, as repository of wisdom and fountainhead of harmonious world' on 21 June 2017. Six eminent Sanskrit Professors were invited from India to present lectures in this first-ever Sanskrit conference organized by ICCR in France.

Bilateral educational cooperation between India and France has grown over the last few years. As part of the vibrant school exchange programme facilitating contact between French and Indian schools, students from 21 French schools visited India in 2017 and an equal number of Indian schools visited their partner schools in France. The Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) is playing an important role in fostering bilateral scientific cooperation. The year 2017 is being celebrated as the 30th anniversary year of CEFIPRA's foundation. The organization continued its activities throughout the year including holding 226 scientific exchange programs, various seminars and published 110 research papers.

According to DGFT statistics, bilateral trade between India and France stood at US\$ 10.95 billion for fiscal 2016-17, registering an encouraging growth of 31% over 2015-16. India's exports to France stood at US\$5.25 billion, up by 13.31% and imports from France amounted to US\$ 5.70 billion, a growth of 0.88% over the previous year. According to DIPP figures, French consolidated FDI in India from April 2000 to September 2017 was to the tune of US\$ 6.03 billion.

## Germany

India's engagement with Germany significantly intensified in 2017, with two successive visits of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Germany within three months and various Ministerial visits. The momentum in the bilateral relationship

was further maintained through closer dialogue and cooperation in many areas such as security, enhanced trade and investment, partnerships in manufacturing, skilling, clean energy, infrastructure, innovation and education.



*Prime Minister meeting the German Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel, on the sidelines of the 12th G-20 Summit, at Hamburg, Germany on 7 July 2017.*

All aspects of India-Germany Strategic Partnership were reviewed at the 4th India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) which took place on 29-30 May 2017 during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Indian delegation also included Smt Nirmala Sithraman, the then Minister of State for Commerce & Industries, Shri (Dr.) Harsh Vardhan - Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Shri Piyush Goel – the then Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Coal, Power and Mines and Shri M.J. Akbar – MoS for External Affairs. During the visit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also called on the German President Frank Walter Steinmeier. Twelve agreements were signed with Germany during the 4th IG meeting. The second visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Germany took place on 7-8 July 2017 for participation in the G20 Summit at Hamburg. On the side lines of G20, ten bilateral meetings were held at the level of leaders with Japan, South Korea, Italy, Vietnam, UK, Canada, Argentina, Mexico, Vietnam, etc. An informal meeting of the BRICS leaders was also held on the side lines of the G20 Summit.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare visited Berlin from 19 – 22 January 2017 to participate in the Global Forum for Food & Agriculture (GFFA) which took place during the International Green Week Fair (IGW) as well as to participate in the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Ministers held during the GFFA. During the visit, the Minister also had bilateral meetings with Mr. Christian Schmidt, German Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture and with Agricultural Ministers of Lithuania, Ukraine and Mexico.

Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs visited Germany on 15-17 February 2017 to attend the G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Bonn. On the sidelines of the G20 Meeting, MoS Shri M.J. Akbar held bilateral meetings with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Federica Mogherini; Foreign Minister of Argentina Ms. Susana Malcorra; Foreign Minister of Netherlands Mr. Bert Koenders; and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Mr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir. Minister also met with the UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Electronics & Information Technology visited Germany in April 2017 to attend G20 Digital Ministers' Meeting in Dusseldorf. Shri J.P. Nadda Minister of Health & Family Welfare visited Germany on 19-20 May 2017 to attend the G-20 Health Ministers Meeting. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries visited Berlin on 21-22 August 2017 to promote the World Food India 2017. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal again visited Germany on 7-9 October 2017 to participate in the ANUGA Food Fair, in which India was the Partner Country. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change visited Bonn in early November 2017 to participate in the UNFCCC's Conference of Parties (COP-23) meeting of world climate negotiators.

Dr. Gerd Mueller, German Development Minister visited Delhi on 5th April 2017 and met Shri Arun Jaitley Union Finance Minister and held discussions in the run up to 4th IGC and the G20 Summit. President of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mr. Winfried Kretschmann accompanied by a large business delegation visited India on 22-27 January 2017. A delegation from Bavarian State Parliament led by former Minister from Bavaria, Mr. Erwin Huber visited India on 19-

20 April 2017.

Other important visits, meetings and dialogues organized included the following:

- 22-24 January 2017: A delegation of the Conference of Indian Industries (CII) met Prof. Roller, Economic Adviser to the Chancellor, German Minister of Finance Schaeuble and top German Business Leaders to discuss economic cooperation..
- 17-19 February 2017: Deputy National Security Adviser Shri Arvind Gupta visited Munich to participate in the Munich Security Conference.
- 25 February 2017: A Diaspora Conference was organized at the Embassy of India, Berlin.
- 5-8 March 2017: The 4th Meeting of the JWG on Quality Infrastructure for Cooperation on Standardisation, Conformity Assessment and Product Safety took place in Berlin.
- 17-18 March 2017: Shri Shaktikanta Das, then Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs participated in the G20 Finance and Central Bank Governors Meeting at Baden Baden in Germany.
- 3 April 2017: Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi during the visit of German Foreign Secretary Dr. Markus Ederer to India.
- 20-22 March 2017: Additional Secretary, Niti Ayog, Shri A.K. Jain visited Berlin to take part in the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2017.
- 17-23 April 2017: Mr. Erwin Huber, Chairman of the Working Group on Economy and Media, Infrastructure, Energy and Transport of the CSU Bavarian Parliamentary Group led a delegation to New Delhi and Bengaluru.
- 26 April 2017: The 2nd India-Germany Policy Planning Dialogue was held in Berlin.
- 15 May 2017: The 1st India-Germany Senior Officials Dialogue on Africa was held in Berlin.
- 24 June 2017: Embassy organized an interaction with over 50 professionals of IT and Research community who are at prominent positions in Berlin and in surrounding areas.

- 28 June 2017: 2nd Meeting of the Indo-German Business Dialogue was held in Berlin.
- 29-30 June 2017: India-Germany Joint Consultations between the Defence Ministries took place in Berlin.
- 1 October 2017: A Food Festival was organized in the Embassy. Around 4000 people participated in the Food Festival.
- 24 October 2017: The 10th meeting of the JWG on Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (VET) was held in Bonn.
- 25-26 October 2017: 11th India- Germany Military Cooperation Sub Group Meeting (MCSG) took place in Berlin.
- 30 November- 1 December 2017: The Annual Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation Meeting was held in New Delhi.

The Embassy's "Make in India-Mittelstand" programme aimed to assist German Mittelstand companies in entering the Indian market by offering a wide range of business support services under a single platform, has continued in the year 2017-18 establishing itself as an integrated market entry facilitation platform for German Mittelstand companies. The programme has proved to be a milestone in improving the 'Ease of Doing Business' in India. MIIM has been designed to act as the "Local Fast Track" for German companies planning to invest in India. Since inception in late 2015 until Nov 2017, the programme has supported over 100 German SMEs with a declared investment of over Euro 830 million and creating employment opportunities in India of about 4000 workforce. This will translate in 48 new manufacturing Plants, 16 Expansion projects and 2 Pilot projects in short to medium term. Over 55 companies are at advanced stage of their market entry into India.

Germany continues to be a significant trading partner of India in Europe. According to DFFT data, in fiscal 2016-17, bilateral trade turnover reached US\$ 18.76 billion, a decline of -2.1% compared to 2015-16. Indian exports to Germany touched US\$ 7.18 billion, an increase of +1.25% over 2015-16. Indian imports from Germany reached US\$ 11.5 billion, a decline of -4.1% over 2015-16. For the period April to September 2017, bilateral trade reached US\$ 10.5 billion, with exports at US\$ 4.1 billion and imports at US\$ 6.4 billion.

Germany is the 7th largest foreign direct investor in India since April 2000 with a cumulative investment of US \$ 10.63 billion. German FDI in India during April to September 2017 was to the tune of US\$ 934 million.

The India-Germany Social Security Agreement (SSA) that was signed in Berlin on 12 October 2011, after completion of ratification process in either country, entered into force from 1 May 2017. A Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) for carrying out feasibility study for speed up gradation on the Chennai-Kazipet corridor (Semi HSR) was also signed between Indian Railways and German Federal Ministry of Transport on 10 October 2017.

### Greece

Foreign Minister of Greece, Mr Nikos Kotzias visited India from 25-28 November 2017 and met EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj on 27 November 2017. Air Services Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of New and Renewable Energy were signed.

Four ships of Indian Navy (INS Mumbai, INS Aditya, INS Tarkash and INS Trishul) paid a goodwill visit to Souda Bay, Crete on 17-20 April 2017. A Passex exercise was undertaken between the Navy ships of both countries on 20 April 2017.

India's GMR Infrastructure Limited, in a joint venture with GEK TERNA of Greece, has bagged the contract for building an airport at Katseli on Crete Island.

### Holy See (Vatican)

Year 2018 marks the 70th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Holy See.

### Hungary

Prime Minister Viktor Orban inaugurated the Apollo Tyres greenfield plant in Gyongyosalasz, Hungary, on 7 April 2017 and an SMP Plant belonging to Samvardhana Motherson Group on 16 November 2017. Foreign and Trade Minister Peter Szijjarto inaugurated the new TCS office buildings in Budapest, Hungary, on 18 April 2017, as the company expanded its capacity by creating 500 new jobs, taking the total number of jobs to 1800. The Indian owned automotive supplier, SONA BLW Group opened its plant in the city of Polgar, Hungary, on 31 May 2017. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Laszlo Szabo, Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

A delegation led by the President of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Hungary from 6-9 May 2017.

India organized the Ganga-Danube Cultural Festival on 23 June 2017. Mr. Peter Cseresnyes, Minister of State, Ministry of National Economy, and President of Hungary-India Parliamentary Friendship Group was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

A delegation from the Coffee Board visited Hungary and participated at the SCAE World of Coffee event, held in Budapest from 13-15 June 2017.

SMR, an Indian company with three plants in Hungary, announced the opening of its new production plant in Turkeve on 25 August 2017. Foreign and Trade Minister Peter Szijjarto and Agriculture Minister Sandor Fazekas attended the event.

Special Secretary, Ayush, and DG, Centre for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) visited Hungary from 1-4 October 2017. During the visit, an MOU between CCRAS and University of Debrecen on establishment of European Institute of Ayurvedic Sciences was signed. Special Secretary, Ayush met with Dr. Peter Medgyessy, former Prime Minister of Hungary and currently Founder of Traditional Indian Medicine for Public Health in Hungary Foundation and with Dr. Zoltan Onadi Szucs, Minister of State for Health.

Mr. Csaba Balogh, Minister of State for Public Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited India from 9-15 October 2017. He called on the Governor and the Finance Minister of West Bengal. A CII delegation, led by Mr. Deep Kapuria, Chairman, CII Central Europe Committee and Chairman of the Hi-Tech Group, visited Hungary to attend the World Export Development Forum held on 25-26 October 2017.

A delegation of over 100 educational consultants from India, led by M/S Uniagents, an education technology consulting

firm, visited Hungary from 24-26 October 2017 and organized a European Higher Education Summit 2017.

Mr. Istvan Mikola, Minister of State / State Secretary for Security Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, participated in the Global Conference on Cyber Space, held on 23-24 November 2017.

## Iceland

A group of 25 ONGC senior executives visited Reykjavik (Iceland) in June 2017 and held meetings with companies involved in geothermal energy.

A two-member delegation led by Dr. M. Ravichandran, Director, National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) of Goa under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India participated in the 5th Annual Arctic Circle Conference meeting in Reykjavik in October 2017.

## Italy

India-Italy relations received a fresh impetus with the meeting of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni on the Margins of G20 at Hamburg in July 2017. This momentum was carried forward with the state visit of Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni accompanied by Mrs. Emanuela Mauro Gentiloni to India from 29-30 October 2017. Coming after a gap of more than a decade of the last visit by Prime Minister Romano Prodi in February 2007, the visit reinvigorated the bilateral political and economic relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Gentiloni called on the President Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu of India while EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj called on Prime Minister Gentiloni. A 15-member Italian CEO delegation accompanied the Prime Minister Gentiloni and interacted with their Indian counterparts. The two Prime Ministers also interacted with the CEOs of both sides.



*Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi receiving Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Prime Minister of Italy and the first lady Mrs. Emanuela Mauro for the forecourt ceremony on 30 October 2017*

During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Gentiloni after which they addressed a joint press conference. The two leaders also unveiled the logo for celebrations of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries that will fall in March 2018. Six agreements covering rail safety, 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations, renewable energy, cultural cooperation, partnership between the respective Foreign Service Institutes and on promotion of investments were exchanged in the presence of the two leaders.

Year 2017 had started on a positive note for India-Italy relations. Italian Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Ivan Scalfarotto led a high profile business delegation to Delhi and Mumbai from 26-28 April 2017. In Delhi, he met Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, then MoS Commerce & Industry. In Mumbai he co-inaugurated the India-Italy Investment Forum on 28 April 2017 with Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The 150 strong-member Italian delegation held more than 800 B2B meetings on various sectors such as auto, infrastructure, construction, machinery, renewable energy and ICT in Mumbai & Delhi.

This was immediately followed by the 19th session of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) held in

Rome, after a gap of 8 years from 10-12 May 2017. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, then MoS Commerce & Industry led the Indian delegation while Mr. Carlo Calenda, Minister of Economic Development led the Italian side. The JCEC reviewed status of India-Italy economic and commercial cooperation and identified the direction for moving it forward. Both sides acknowledged that huge complementarities and synergies exist between the two economies, especially in the SME sector, which could be harnessed to their mutual advantage. During her visit to Rome, MoS Smt Nirmala Sitharaman had the privilege to call on Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni and convey India's desire to work with Italian leadership to take the relations forward. MoS Smt Nirmala Sitharaman also visited a coach factory owned by Indian company Titagargh.

Shri Parshottam Rupala, MoS for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare visited Rome to attend FAO Conference from 3-8 July 2017. He met Mr. Andrea Olivero, Deputy Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy on 5 July 2017. On 13 October 2017, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley met his Italian counterpart Pier Carlo Padoan in Washington DC on the sidelines of the World Bank/IMF meetings. They discussed their mutual interest to strengthen bilateral economic relations.

The 8th meeting of the Military Cooperation Group after a gap of 6 years also added momentum to India- Italy defence cooperation. The Group met in New Delhi from 14-16 June 2017 and discussed proposed activities between the two countries. An Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passports between India and Italy, which was signed in Rome on 29 May 2017, came into force on 27 October 2017.

Following Prime Minister Gentiloni's visit to India, Italian Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Mr. Ivan Scalfarotto led Italian delegation to World Food India 2017 in early November. Representatives from Confindustria (Italian Trade Agency) as well as representatives of major trade associations in food processing sectors and major Food processing companies participated in the event where Italy was a focus country.

Italian Minister of Health, Ms Beatrice Lorenzin visited India from 29-30 November 2017. She met Minister of Health, Shri J.P. Nadda with whom she signed an MOU for enhanced cooperation in the health sector. Soon after, Mr. Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies visited India from 6-8 December 2017 to attend an Agriculture Machinery Show EIMA AGRIMACH along with a large business delegation. He met Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare with whom he signed an MOU on Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues. The Italian Minister also met Minister for Food processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal and discussed the possibility of mutual cooperation in the food-processing sector.

The Embassy of India in Rome facilitated participation of Indian businessmen in major commercial fairs in Italy besides holding promotional events for World Food India at Bari, Parma, Naples and Bologna. Embassy organised/participated in more than a dozen commercial events during this period. Prominent ones were Metef- Metal Fair in Verona on 23 June 2017, PMI international SME round table in Naples on 07 July 2017, 'Ease of Doing business in India' in Milan on 18 July 2017, Vicenza Oro jewellery show on 25 Sept 2017 and MarmoMac 2017 in Verona in September 2017 where Indian exhibitors participated in large numbers.

Under the provisions of the Agreement for Cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology between India and Italy, the Executive Programme of Cooperation (EPOC) for the years 2017-2019 was signed in New Delhi on 18 April 2017.

Thirteen projects for exchange of researchers and ten significant joint research projects were selected from the priority areas of Information and Communication Technology, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Agriculture, Health, Biotechnology and Medicine, Physical and Chemical Sciences, and Technologies applied to Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Award Ceremony of the India-funded 2017 Srinivasa Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries was held on 12 October 2017 at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy.

The Embassy organized a number of events in the field of culture, performing arts, academics and yoga during the period 1 April 2017 – 30 November 2017. The annual Summer Mela Festival organised by the India-Europe Foundation for New Dialogues (FIND) was held in June 2016 and saw participation by eminent Indian and Italian artists. The 'River to River Indian Florence Film Festival', entirely devoted to Indian films, was held from 7-12 December 2017. The 3rd International Day of Yoga (21 June 2017) received an overwhelming response in Italy. A series of events were organised on nine consecutive days in collaboration with local institutions and associations. On the occasion of 70th Anniversary of India's Independence, a lecture-cum-seminar was organized in the Embassy premises on 15 August 2017. Another conference-cum-cultural performance titled 'Voices of Freedom' was held in Angelica Library in Rome in November 2017.

In order to reach out to Indian community members residing in central and southern parts of Italy, a series of consular camps were organised. Consular camps have been organised in Bucine, Bari and Terracina wherein a large number of Indian citizens and OCIs participated in the event to avail of consular services. The festival of Deepawali was celebrated officially this year also at the Italian Senate and in the Embassy premises in collaboration with Italian Hindu Union. The Embassy also established a community centre in Buicine town, Arezzo region in May 2017, in collaboration with Buicine-based Indian Community Association. The community centre is assisting the Indian Diaspora in liaising with local authorities regarding various issues concerning the community, providing Italian language classes, legal guidance to Indians, promoting Indian culture, cuisine and spiritual heritage etc.

## Ireland

Close and cordial relations with Ireland continued. Prime



Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke to the Irish Prime Minister Mr Leo Varadkar on 16 June 2017 and congratulated him on his election as the new Prime Minister of Ireland. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi told the Irish Prime Minister that he looked forward to working with him for further strengthening of India-Ireland relations. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also extended an invitation to the Irish Prime Minister to visit India.

An Ireland-India Friendship Parliamentary Group has been set up in the Irish Parliament under the Chairmanship of Speaker of Dail (Lower House of Parliament) in June 2017 with the purpose of increasing awareness about India among the Members of Parliament of Ireland.

Ireland co-hosted the 31st Plenary for the (Missile Technology Control Regime) MTCR at Dublin in October 2017. A 6-member Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary (Disarmament), participated in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) meetings. JS (Disarmament) held bilateral meeting with his counterpart in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland. Ireland supported India's candidature to MTCR in November 2016.

MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar spoke to the Irish Foreign Minister Mr. Simon Coveney on 14 July 2017 to congratulate him on his appointment. The two leaders also discussed bilateral relations. Minister of State for Training, Skills and Innovation, Mr. John Halligan visited India in February 2017 and called upon then MOS for Skills Development, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy. The 7th Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) took place in New Delhi on 23 November 2017 during which bilateral and multilateral issues of interest were discussed. While the Indian delegation for the FOC was led by Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West), the Irish delegation was led by Mr. Barrie Robinson, Political Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ireland also announced that it would open a regular Consulate in Mumbai in 2017 to focus on India as a leading country in the Asian region, and to deepen its economic and political engagement as a part of expanding its global footprint.

Bilateral trade in goods between India and Ireland in 2016-17 touched US\$ 1.011 billion, exports from India were US\$ 485.28 million and Imports from Ireland were US\$ 525.82 million. Trade in services touched US\$ 3.27 billion. Cumulative FDI inflows from Ireland were US\$ 361.57 million during the period April 2000 to April 2017. About 70 Irish companies have made investments in India. To promote

trade and investment ties, business events were organised by the Mission to promote 'Make in India' and other flagship initiatives in collaboration with local business organisations. A booklet titled, 'India Surging Ahead' (produced by Economic Diplomacy Division of the MEA) was circulated to all major trade promotion organisations and Chamber of Commerce in Ireland in March 2017. In September 2017, an Indian dairy delegation, with the support of Enterprise Ireland, participated in the National Ploughing Championship (Ireland's primary agricultural exhibition and one of the largest in Europe). A publication 'Investment Opportunities in Karnataka' was released on 'Karnataka Day' celebrations in November 2017. To promote tourism from Ireland, India Tourism Office, London put up a stall in the Holiday World Show, Dublin in January 2017.

Ireland continued to promote itself as an education hub and is becoming a significant destination for Indian students seeking higher education. Around 2,300 Indian students are studying in Irish higher educational institutions. Trinity College of Ireland has entered into an agreement with Thapar University, India which aims at upgrading the University's standards to international levels with the aim of introducing a joint degree programme in five engineering and science disciplines. A MoU on setting up a Chair on Politics and International Relations in the Dublin City University was renewed by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for another four academic years in October 2017. President of Dublin City University; Prof. Brian MacCraith visited India under the Academic Visitors Programme of the ICCR in February 2017.

Several events were organized to celebrate the 3rd International Day of Yoga to encourage participation from students, academics, yoga enthusiasts, general public, corporate and Diplomatic Corps. Commemorative Stamps on Ramayana, released by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 22 September 2017 were launched in Ireland on 14 October 2017 in the presence of Mr. Paul Gogarty, South Dublin City Council Mayor. The 150th Anniversary of Irish born Sister Nivedita was celebrated by organizing a "Puppet Show on Swami Vivekanda" on 14 October 2017 in collaboration with Eire Vedanta Society of Ireland. The 8th Indian Film Festival of Ireland was organized by showcasing several films from popular mainstream cinema, biopic and short films in September 2017.

The Indian community in Ireland continues to grow in size. Approximately 34,000 PIOs/NRIs are in Ireland. The growth

of the community is reflected in the growing celebrations of Indian festivals like Diwali and Ugadi. These are attended by a number of Irish leaders from all political parties. The 3rd India Day was celebrated by the Indian Community in Dublin on 19 August 2017 and the event was graced by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Frances Fitzgerald and Speaker of the lower house of Parliament, Mr. Ceann Comhairle.

## Liechtenstein

In celebration of 70 years of India's Independence, a Kuchipudi dance troupe performed on 7 October 2017 at TAK theatre. An India Week – Yoga and Ayurveda was

celebrated in Liechtenstein from 18-25 November 2017. The event was also sponsored by Liechtenstein Ministry of culture and foreign affairs.

The 16th round of India-EFTA TEPA negotiations was held in Liechtenstein on 29 May-2 June 2017.

## Lithuania

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar, visited Lithuania in May 2017, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of establishment of the diplomatic relations. He held discussions with the Minister of Education and Science of Lithuania.



*Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania calls on Vice President in New Delhi on 9 October 2017*

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Mr. Linas Linkevius visited India from 8-11 October 2017. FM Linkevius had a meeting with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, in New Delhi on 9 October 2017. During the visit, the two Ministers signed the Treaty on Extradition between India and Lithuania and the Protocol amending and supplementing the Agreement between India and Lithuania relating to Air Services. FM

Linkevius called on Vice President of India in New Delhi on 9 October 2017.

## Latvia

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Latvia in May 2017. And held bilateral talks with Latvian Foreign Minister. He also called on President, Speaker of Latvian Parliament and Prime Minister.



*Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia, Mr. Maris Kucinskis signing the visitors' book, at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on 3 November 2017.*

Latvian Prime Minister Maris Kucinskis led an 18-member delegation to India from 2-6 November 2017 for the World Food India 2017 and held bilateral talks with Indian Prime Minister. He visited Mumbai from 4-6 November 2017 and called on Governor of Maharashtra.

## **Luxembourg**

India's bilateral relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg continued to strengthen and the two countries had extended cooperation at various multilateral forum. Minister for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Mr. Francois Bausch, visited India on 11-16 November 2017 to attend the International Road Federation (IRF) World Road meeting.

The bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg stood at US\$ 57 million for the fiscal 2016-17. India's exports to Luxembourg amounted to US\$ 11.48 million (+42%), while India's imports stood at US\$ 46.08 million. FDI flows from Luxembourg to India between April 2000 and September 2017 amounted to US\$ 2.2 billion making it the 15th largest investor in India.

The 15th session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and the Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was held on 29 May 2017 in Luxembourg. The JEC was co-Chaired by Mr. Gaston Stronck, Director for European and International Economic Affairs of the Luxembourg

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Mr. Gregoire Curvelier, Deputy Director General for Bilateral Affairs in the Belgian Foreign Ministry on the BLEU side and Ms. Anita Praveen, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, on the Indian side. The two sides held discussions on wide areas of mutual interest to take economic and trade engagement forward.

## **Macedonia**

Macedonia opened an Honorary Consulate in Kolkata on 7 September 2017.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between Balkan-India Business Association and the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce.

## **Malta**

Since the closing down of Indian Mission in Malta in 2002, it had been concurrently accredited to Libya. The Indian Mission from Tripoli has shifted and been re-opened in Malta from January 2017.

## **Moldova**

During the International Economic Forum held in St. Petersburg on 1-3 June 2017, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Mr. Igor Dodonov, Moldovan President on 2 June 2017 on the sidelines of the event.

## Monaco

Monaco, one of the world's most prosperous States and the second smallest State after the Vatican is a constitutional monarchy ruled by Prince Albert II of House of Grimaldi. The Republic of India and the Principality of Monaco officially established diplomatic relations on 21 September 2007. Consular relations between the two countries have existed since 30 September 1954. India and Monaco enjoy cordial relations and the two countries have gradually developed their relations in various fields. Trade, tourism and taxation matters are some of the leading sectors of cooperation.

## Montenegro

India's relations with Montenegro are close and friendly. There is considerable goodwill and feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Montenegro on 23 June in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro.

## Netherlands

2017 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands. The highlight of the year was the visit of PM Modi to the Netherlands in June 2017, which provided a significant boost to bilateral cooperation. The visit highlighted the natural synergies between the two countries, which provide many opportunities for complementarity.

Bilateral ties are anchored in strong, successful and wide-ranging economic and commercial relations. Trade and investment cooperation remained a key component of the bilateral relationship with a two-way trade worth US\$ 6.9 billion in 2016-17. The Netherlands was India's 28th largest trading partner globally and the 6th largest trading partner in the EU. During the current financial year, 2017-18 (April-September) total two-way trade stood at US\$ 2.5 billion. The Netherlands is the sixth largest investor of FDI into India with investments worth US \$ 19.81 billion in a variety of sectors such as water management, upgrading of ports and airports, dredging, agro-processing, telecommunication, energy, oil refining, chemicals, and financial services. The Netherlands also continued to be source of useful technical know-how, as well as home to a number of multinational and other companies, many of them with their production sites and business operations in India. India is the sixth largest investor in the Netherlands with investments from India accounting

for 13% of total inflows into the Netherlands.

The successful implementation of the electronic Tourism Visa (eTV) in the Netherlands w.e.f. 15 August 2015 has contributed greatly to increased business and tourism flows and people to people contacts. Jet Airways started daily non-stop flights between Bengaluru and Amsterdam with effect from 29 October 2017. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is also operating three direct flights per week between Mumbai and Amsterdam, as of 29 October 2017. This has greatly enhanced connectivity and ease-of travel between India and the Netherlands. In a further boost to connectivity, Air France-KLM signed a joint venture with Jet Airways on flights between India and Europe on November 29, 2017. Following this, Jet Airways and KLM will operate 31 flights per week from Amsterdam to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Netherlands on 27 June 2017. In The Hague, he held bilateral talks with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and members of the Dutch Cabinet. He also called on the King and Queen of the Netherlands (in her capacity as the UN Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development). The talks covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with special focus on areas of Dutch expertise such as Water and Waste Management, Renewable Energy, Agriculture and Food Processing. There was also exchange of views on regional and global issues such as terrorism, cyber security and cooperation in international organizations. Three MoUs were signed during this visit viz. (a) MoU on cooperation in the field of Water Management (b) MoU on Cultural Cooperation and (c) Protocol amending the Agreement on Social Security. PM also met 16 CEOs from various sectors of importance to India and the Netherlands. He briefed them on the opportunities in India, which has now emerged as a business-friendly destination. He called on the Dutch companies to invest in sectors which are important for India's development, and which are areas of Dutch expertise. PM Modi concluded his visit with a community reception where he addressed around 2500 members of the Indian diaspora in The Hague.

Former Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders visited India from 05-09 May 2017. The highlights of the visit, which covered the cities of Kochi, Bengaluru and New Delhi, included meetings with the External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj, Dr. Thomas Isaac, Minister of Finance of Kerala and Mr. R.V. Deshpande, Minister for Large and Medium Industries of Karnataka. The visit focused on

cooperation in a number of areas including Water and Waste Management, Smart Cities and Renewable Energy. On 9 May Mr. Koenders held official talks with EAM where they exchanged views on a number of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. In New Delhi, the Dutch Foreign Minister participated in the foundation stone laying ceremony of a demonstration plant for cleaning the Barapullah drain. This was part of an Indo-Dutch joint project titled LOTUS HR (Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse). In Bengaluru, Minister Koenders announced the opening of the Consulate General of the Netherlands later this year.

Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee visited the Netherlands from 19-24 June 2017 along with a delegation comprising of Finance and Industries Minister and top CEOs of West Bengal. Ms. Banerjee was invited to address the UN Public Service Forum scheduled at The Hague between 22-23 June 2017, where her project 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' won the highest public service award by UN. Ms. Banerjee also participated in a business meet showcasing investment opportunities in West Bengal, organised jointly by the FICCI and VNO-NCW, the leading employers' association in the Netherlands. She attended a meeting with the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVV), the governing body of football in the Netherlands, after which she signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), which provides for Dutch coaches to train football players in West Bengal.

The Indian Food Processing Minister Mrs. Harsimrat Kaur Badal visited the Netherlands from 22-23 August 2017 to promote World Food India 2017. Ms. Badal was accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries as well as a business delegation including representatives from the CII and KPMG India. She met with Mr. Matrijn van Dam, the Dutch Minister of Agriculture and explored the potential for further cooperation in the food processing and agriculture sector. Ms. Badal also addressed a Roadshow on World Food India 2017, jointly hosted by the Embassy of India, VNO-NCW, Rabobank and KPMG at the Rabo Bank headquarters in Utrecht, and attended by CEOs of leading Dutch companies from the food processing sector. The Netherlands participated as a focus country in World Food India 2017 held from November 3-5, 2017 in New Delhi. The Dutch delegation included 27 companies from the sector.

The 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between India and the Netherlands on Science and Technology was held

from 28-30 August, 2017 in The Hague. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Arabinda Mitra, Adviser & Head, International Bilateral Cooperation, DST, Ministry of Science and Technology. The Dutch Science Research office (NWO) and Enterprise and Innovation, Economic Affairs and the two Indian agencies, viz. DST and DBT reviewed bilateral S&T cooperation in their respective areas.

The Cyber Security Week (CSW) was organised by The Hague Security Delta, the leading security cluster in Europe, along with 100 partners from businesses, knowledge institutions and government from September 24-29, 2017. Delegates from India included various stakeholders such as State IT officials, large IT services companies, Officials from Indian Security firms E2LABS and KrypC Technologies and Academia. During the Cyber Security Week, two Indian companies, E2Labs and KrypC opened their new European offices in The Hague. A 12-member Dutch delegation led by Mr. Uri Rosenthal, the Dutch Cyber Envoy participated in the Global Conference on Cyberspace held in New Delhi from 23-24 November 2017. The Dutch delegation included Deputy National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Security and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

Ms. Elaine Alwayn, Director Water and Soil, Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment of the Netherlands visited India from 9-11 October 2017, to participate in India Water Week in New Delhi. The delegation attended an informal meeting of the JWG on Water with the Ministry of Water Resources. The delegation also held a meeting with the Ministry of Urban Development.

The Third International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 18 June 2017 at the Atrium City Hall of The Hague. The event saw the enthusiastic participation of nearly 1000 people including members of the diplomatic corps, Dutch, Surinami-Hindustani and Indian communities.

Hurricane Irma hit the Dutch island territory of Sint Maarten on 4th September 2017, causing massive damage and devastation. Mission received information about the situation of Indian nationals stranded in Sint Maarten, following which it reached out to the affected people of Indian origin in the island. In collaboration with Embassy of India, Caracas, the Mission in The Hague actively participated in evacuation efforts, including by monitoring the situation in real time basis, and liaising with concerned authorities/agencies in the Netherlands, providing information on points of relief supplies, helplines and addressing concerns on security.

Assistance was also provided by arranging flight clearances for the evacuation of more than 250 people of Indian origin from St. Maarten to Curacao as well as in locating missing Indian nationals and repatriating them to India.

The 71st Independence Day was celebrated at India House, Ambassador's Residence in the Netherlands. The event, which was organised as an open house, was attended by over 500 people including members of Indian diaspora and friends of India. A special celebration of India @70 was organised by the Mission in collaboration with the city government of The Hague, the Netherlands India association and various other Indian diaspora organisations.

'India House', the 103-year-old residence of the Ambassador of India to the Netherlands was opened to the public on September 19, 2017 on the occasion of the Annual Heritage/Open Monuments Day, a day when owners of mansions or buildings with historical heritage throughout the Netherlands open their doors to the public. Built in 1912 and originally named 'Meyland', India House is one such heritage building in Wassenaar. Over 1000 people, including officials of the Dutch government, Ambassadors and representatives of other diplomatic Missions in the Netherlands; press/media persons; and the public – both Dutch and expatriates – visited 'India House'. A brochure on India house was released by former Dutch Finance Minister Mr. Witteveen, Justice Bhandari of ICJ & Joris Geeven of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with Ambassador. Visitors participated in Yoga sessions, Bollywood dance, Henna (Indian temporary tattoo application), Baithak gana and sampled Indian delicacies.

Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Non-Violence, was marked by various events organized in the Netherlands at Utrecht, The Hague and Amsterdam. On October 1, Mission organised a Gandhi March in The Hague, as part of a 'Follow the Mahatma' campaign. The march, which began at the Peace Palace was attended by over 800 people including Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, and celebrity fitness advocate and inspirational speaker Milind Soman, among others. It ended in the Grote Kerk with a performance of an excerpt of Philip Glass's opera titled 'Satyagraha'. A bicycle personally used by Mahatma Gandhi, which was sent by the Gandhi Memorial Trust of India was exhibited. On October 2, volunteers went to 22 schools and held interactive classes on Mahatma Gandhi and on the significance of non-violence.

The Embassy of India on behalf of the Commonwealth-

Netherlands Joint Committee of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission hosted a Commonwealth Remembrance Day Service at the Westduin Cemetery in The Hague on November 12, 2017 to honour the sacrifices of Commonwealth forces in the First and Second World Wars. The ceremony was attended by over 300 people. A special photo exhibition showcasing the contribution of Indian soldiers in World War I was displayed at the location, which was later moved to the City Hall in The Hague.

## Norway

Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, led a Goodwill Parliamentary delegation to Norway from May 31-June 3 2017 for promoting and strengthening parliamentary relations between the two countries. During the visit, the Indian delegation met Minister of Trade and Industry, Monica Mæland and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Marit Berger Røsland.

PM held bilateral meeting with PM Erna Solberg on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg on 8 July 2017.

An Indian delegation led by Mr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) visited Oslo and Stavanger from August 10-11 2017, to invite Norwegian investments in India.

A delegation from the Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. visited Oslo from August 28-30 2017 to explore possibility of collaboration with relevant Norwegian authorities, particularly in tunnelling technology used for railway sector.

A 26-member Indian defence delegation sponsored by College of Defence Management (CDM), Hyderabad visited Norway from 23-27 October 2017.

## Poland

Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, visited Poland on an official visit in April 2017, accompanied by Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and four Members of Parliament from both Houses – Shri Sita Ram Yechuri, Shri D.P. Tripathi, Shri Vivek K. Tankha and Shri Thupstan Chhewang. During the visit, the Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari held talks with the Prime Minister, President and the Marshal (Speaker) of the Senate (Upper House). Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari addressed jointly with the Polish Prime Minister, an Indo-Polish Business Summit at the Ministry of Economic Development in Warsaw. During the visit, an agreement on cooperation in agriculture and allied sector was signed.



*Vice President presenting a copy of the Constitution of India to the Speaker of Senate of Poland, Mr. Stanislaw Karczewski, in Warsaw, Poland on 27 April 2017. The Minister of State for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Giriraj Singh is also seen.*

The fifth session of the India-Poland Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held in New Delhi in November 2017. The Commission was co-chaired by Shri Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Mr Witold Slowik, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development.

The Secretary of State in the Ministry of Energy of Poland also participated in the Joint Commission. He addressed the India-Poland Business Forum organized by FICCI focussing on energy cooperation. The Polish JSW coking coal mining company signed two contracts for supplying coking coal to Essar Steel until 2030 and for cooperation with Jindal Steel and Power on investment projects in the mining industries.

The Polish Deputy Minister for Economic Development participated in the World Food India event in New Delhi in November 2017.

The Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Smt Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti visited Poland on July 2017 and invited Poland to become a Partner and Participating country in World India Food held in New Delhi in November 2017.

Poland was the Partner Country at the 8th Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar in January 2017. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture & National Heritage of Poland, Prof. Piotr Gliniski, led a delegation, including the Deputy Ministers of Economic Development and Foreign Affairs, as also the two Marshals (CMs) of Podkarpackie and Mazowieckie Provinces of Poland.

The Polish Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ms Ewa Lech, attended AAHAR Trade Fair and held discussions with the

Ministry of Food Processing Industries in March 2017.

The Urban Local Bodies Minister of the state of Haryana, Smt Kavita Jain, visited Poland in July 2017 and studied green technologies practiced by reputed Polish firms for suitable adaptation in Haryana.

Indian delegations -Council of Leather Exports, Vibrant Ceramics and Plastindia visited Poland and Polish textile delegation participated in the Textiles India 2017 event.

A delegation from the 57th NDC course, including four foreign course members, visited Poland on a study tour during May-June 2017.

A MoU for establishment of an ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow for the period 2017-18 to 2019-2020 was signed in February 2017. Similar MoUs were signed for renewal of Chair of Hindi and a Chair of Tamil at the University of Warsaw for the next three academic years till 2019-2020.

## Portugal

India and Portugal share a long-standing relationship spanning over half a millennium, characterized by warm and friendly relations, robust people-to-people contacts and close historical and cultural links. The unprecedented exchange of official visits by the two Prime Ministers in the first half of 2017 within a span of six months, has imparted renewed momentum to bilateral relations. Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa paid a state visit to India from 6-12 January 2017 which was followed by the official visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Portugal on 24 June 2017. The two

high-level visits saw 20 announcements and Agreements in priority sectors like Defence, Space, Renewable Energy, Oceans, IT & Electronics, Agriculture, Start Ups, Higher Education & Research, Taxation, Public Administration, Culture, Visas, Youth & Sports, cooperation in third countries, Trade & Commerce. India and Portugal are working on these outcomes to tap into their complementary synergies and forge a forward-looking partnership with stronger strategic, political, economic, cultural, scientific and people-to-people ties.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Portugal on 24 June 2017 was the first stand-alone bilateral visit to Portugal by

an Indian Prime Minister. During this visit, 11 MoUs were signed in the areas of Space, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Public Administration and Governance Reforms, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Culture, Youth & Sports, and Higher Education. A new Joint S&T Fund of 4 million euros was announced and the two Prime Ministers launched the India Portugal Start-up Hub, a web portal to connect Indian and Portuguese Start-ups, as follow-up to the India Portugal Start-up Partnership announced during Prime Minister Costa's visit to India in January.



*Prime Minister with Prime Minister of Portugal, Mr. Antonio Costa, at Lisbon, Portugal on 24 June 2017.*

Apart from the two high-level visits, the year saw Ministerial visits from India to Portugal, India's participation in important scientific meetings, convening of key bilateral institutional dialogues and anchoring of economic and cultural events. Minister of Science and Technology, Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Earth Sciences Shri (Dr.) Harsh Vardhan visited Portugal from 7-8 September 2017 to participate in the Oceans Meeting 2017 at the invitation of the Portuguese Minister of Sea, Dra. Ana Vitorino. Minister Shri Harsh Vardhan also called on the Prime Minister of Portugal Dr. Antonio Costa and held bilateral discussions with Dr. Manuel Heitor, the Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology & Higher Education. He visited the Institute of Superior Technology (IST) and the Institute of Systems & Robotics (ISR), and discussed ongoing collaboration in the areas of ocean observation and underwater robotics with the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Goa, and also interacted with Indian researchers.

Minister of State for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences Shri Y. S. Chowdhary, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising officials from the Ministry of Earth Sciences and ISRO, visited Portugal from 19-23 April 2017 to participate in the Atlantic Interactions meeting to discuss the establishment of the Atlantic International Research (AIR) Centre in the Azores islands in Portugal. Shri Chowdhary also held bilateral discussions with the Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology & Higher Education, Dr. Manuel Heitor, on enhancing bilateral cooperation. The two Ministers announced the selection of 15 new joint research projects out of 135 research proposals under the framework of the India Portugal Joint Science & Technology Committee (JSTC) for supporting research in areas like material sciences, energy, biotechnology, ICT and health sciences.

Shri S. Rakesh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of ANTRIX and Dr. S.S.C. Sheno, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)



participated in the first Working Group Meeting held in Lisbon on 14 July 2017 to discuss the establishment of the AIR Centre. Dr. T.M. Balakrishnan Nair, Scientist-F, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, represented India in the second meeting held on 20-21 November in Florianopolis in Brazil.

After a gap of 11 years, the fourth session of the India-Portugal Joint Commission on Economic Matters was held in Lisbon on 30 May 2017. It was led by Ms. Anita Pravin, Joint Secretary (FT-Europe) in the Department of Commerce and Ms. Virginia Pina, Deputy Director General, Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides discussed a roadmap for boosting bilateral and third-country trade and investment cooperation. A MOU was signed on this occasion between the Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCIP) for exchanges of trade missions and formation of the India-Portugal Joint Business Council (IPJBC).

The Embassy of India in Lisbon commemorated the 3rd International Day of Yoga with week-long celebrations, starting with a large event on 21 June 2017 at the Comunidade Hindu Portugal (CHP) premises in Lisbon in which around 500 people performed Yoga. The Mission also organised a Yoga session for school students and teachers on the occasion of the IDY at the Carlucci American International School in Lisbon. On 24 June 2017, a Yog Samkhya Conference was organised at the University of Lisbon with a Yoga demonstration and Omkara choir organised by the Portuguese Yoga Confederation. On 25 June 2017, IDY was celebrated at the Muniz Pereira Municipal Stadium where several local dignitaries and representatives of different religious communities in Portugal spoke and around 1,000 people performed yoga together.

India participated as the first Guest Country in the annual Portuguese Science Festival Ciencia 2017 on 3-4 July 2017 in Lisbon with a delegation comprising senior scientists from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). A India-Portugal Workshop on Marine Sciences was held on the side-lines, as agreed in the Joint Science & Technology Committee meeting.

Portugal organised the second edition of the Web Summit in Lisbon from 6 - 9 November 2017. Representatives from Invest India participated in the Web Summit and held meetings with the Portuguese Secretary of State for Industry Dr. Ana Lehmann and other relevant interlocutors to advance cooperation under the India Portugal Start-up Partnership. The Embassy of India in Lisbon also supported a networking event organised by the Portugal India Business Hub (PIB

Hub) to connect Indian Start-ups with the Portuguese innovation ecosystem. The Portuguese Secretary of State for Tourism and key officials were present on the occasion.

The Embassy organised India Business Seminars in Portimao, Lisbon and Porto during 20-22 November 2017, with Madhya Pradesh as the 'Focus State'. The Minister of Commerce, Industry & Employment of Madhya Pradesh Shri Rajendra Shukla led a four member delegation from the State and made a pitch for attracting business and investments into Madhya Pradesh. The Ambassador, local dignitaries, representative of Madhya Pradesh and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as well as experts on Indian legal and tax regimes also spoke at the events.

A high-level delegation from the Aguas de Portugal (ADP) visited India to participate in the Water Week from 10-14 October 2017 organised by the Ministry of Water Resources and met senior officials of WAPCOS Ltd (Mini Ratna Public Sector Enterprise of GOI) to discuss possible collaboration in the water sector. A follow-up visit took place from 2-4 November 2017 to take the discussions forward. A three member delegation led by Professor Pedro Veiga, Head of the Portuguese National Cyber Security Centre (CNCS) visited India to participate in the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Security (GCSS) organised by the Ministry of IT & Electronics on 23-24 November 2017.

On the cultural front, the Embassy organised a series of events, such as the Jiya festival of Dance organised at the Oriente Foundation in collaboration with the Casa de Goa and the Nakshatra Production on 29 April 2017; Chhau dance performance in Lumiar on 2 May 2017, sponsored by the ICCR and performances of the dance drama Siddhartha in Lisbon (29 October 2017), Lagos (31 October 2017) and Porto (2 November 2017) by the Art Vision group as part of the India@70 celebrations. India also participated from 23-26 May 2017 in the Finisterra Arrabida Film Arts and Tourism Festival as a guest country and showcased its unique cultural diversity. The Embassy of India participated in the 3rd edition of 'Festival de Setembro' organised by the Ourem Municipality from 8-10 September 2017. On this occasion, a Bollywood film show and workshop was organised. The Embassy also participated in the 3rd 'Encontro Multicultural festival' organised by the Municipality of Albufeira in south Portugal on 2 June 2017 where a consular camp was also organised.

Casa de Goa celebrated its 30th anniversary on 6 May 2017 and organised the International Conference on 'Sustainable Development in Goa in the 21st Century'. Prime Minister Mr Antonio Costa addressed the Conference where he was accorded honorary membership of Casa de Goa. Prime

Minister Mr Antonio Costa also attended an Indian cultural and community event at the Radha Krishna Temple organized by the Comunidade Hindu de Portugal (CHP) on 16 May 2017.

On 25 September 2017, the Embassy, in association with the University of Lisbon, commemorated the 100th birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay by organising a Panel Discussion on ‘Transforming India through People’s Empowerment’. On 15 November 2017, Hindi Divas was celebrated at the University of Lisbon with the inauguration of an online Hindi-Portuguese dictionary, several cultural events and a donation of Hindi Books to the Centre of India Studies.

Portugal has consistently supported India in multilateral fora. During this period, Portugal supported India’s re-election to the Executive Board of UNESCO as well as the inclusion of Ahmedabad city in the UNESCO heritage list. Portugal also supported the re-election of Judge Dalveer Bhandari to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the term 2018-27.

## Romania

Mr. A.K. Joti, Chief Election Commissioner, visited Romania to attend the Extraordinary Meetings of the Association of World Election Bodies, held from 30 August – 2 September 2017, to take up Vice Chairmanship of the Body, with Chairmanship to come in 2018-19.

Mrs. Rina Mitra, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau, visited Romania to attend Paris Pact Expert Working Group on Precursors from 22-25 October 2017.

Romanian Secretary of State for Global Affairs in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Monica Gheorghita, met Lt. Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), MoS, on the sidelines of 13th ASEM Summit in Myanmar.

The 18th Joint Economic Commission was held in New Delhi. Mr. Christian Dima, Secretary of State in the Romanian Ministry of Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, led the delegation.

9th Edition of Namaste India Cultural Festival was held in June 2017.

## San Marino

EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj met Mr. Nicola Renzi, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Justice of Republic of San Marino in New York on 9 November 2017. The two leaders discussed a variety of issues to boost bilateral cooperation. FM Renzi expressed his desire to sign an Agreement on Bilateral Investment Treaty and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. San Marino had supported India for the candidature of Judge Dr. Dalveer Bhandari for ICJ, India’s candidature to the Executive Council of UNESCO and

Category ‘B’ of the Council of International Maritime Organization (IMO).

## Serbia

Mr. Branislav Nedimovic, Serbian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry & Water Management led a delegation to World Food India in New Delhi from 3-5 November 2017. Minister Nedimovic met Union Minister of Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh and Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

Dr. Jagdish Chandra, Head of International cooperation, DST led a delegation of scientists to Serbia for the 2nd Session of India-Serbia S&T Joint Committee Meeting on 2 October 2017, wherein a programme of cooperation was signed in five agreed areas, namely, New Materials and Nano-technology, Energy and Energy efficiency, ICT, Biotechnology for Human health, and Food Security.

MOU on Archival Cooperation was signed between the National Archives of India and the Archives of Yugoslavia in October 2017.

The first Meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) under the bilateral MOU on IT & Electronics was held in October 2017 through video conferencing. Assistant Minister Prof Irini led a delegation which participated in the Global Conference for Cyber Security (GCCS) in November 2017, New Delhi.

## Slovak Republic

MOU on the implementation of EU-India Horizontal Air Service Agreement between India and Slovakia on the four provisions relating to liberalization of cargo service signed effective from 5 April 2017.

The 9th Session of India-Slovakia Joint Economic Committee (JEC) was held in Bratislava on 21 April 2017.

Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovak Republic visited India on 27-28 August, 2017, as President-elect of the 72nd Session of UNGA and called on Prime Minister Modi and met EAM on 28 August 2017.

State Secretary, Mr. Lukas Parížek visited India on 26-28 September 2017 and met Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh and Minister of State for Defence, Subhash Bhamre.

## Slovenia

Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs visited Slovenia to participate at the Bled Strategic Forum 2017 from 3-6 September 2017. During the visit, he separately met H.E. Dr. Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia and Mr. Karl Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

On the sidelines of Bled Strategic Forum, MOS Shri M.J.Akbar had separate bilateral meetings with Ms. Patti Londoño Jaramillo, Deputy Foreign Minister of Republic of Columbia; Mr. Miroslav Laják, Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic; Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade of Hungary; Dr. Teodor-Viorel Melcanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania; Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission; Mr. Carmelo Abela, Minister of Foreign Affairs Trade Promotion of the Republic of Malta; Mr. Nikola Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia; Mr. Ivica Dač, First Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia; and Mr. Ditmir Bushati and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania.

Ms. Alenka Smerkolj, the Development Minister of Slovenia, accompanied by Ms. Sonja Šmuc, the Executive Director of the Managers' Association, Ms. Sonja Klopčič, participated at the Women Economic Forum (WEF) held at New Delhi from 8-13 May 2017.

On 20 September, Shri Paramjit Mann presented credentials to Mr. Borut Pahor, President of Slovenia.

Smt. Seema Bahuguna, Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries visited Slovenia on 28-29 September 2017 and met Minister of Education, Science and Sport, Speaker and State Secretaries in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director ICPE.

Indian MSME companies participated in the 50th MOS (International Trade and Business) Fair in Celje, Slovenia from 12-17 September 2017.

A group of 6 Slovenian companies led by Mr. Matjaz Franc Zupancic, State Secretary, Government Office for Development and EU Cohesion Policy, Slovenia participated at the India Water Impact summit 2017 at New Delhi from 4-7 December 2017.

## Spain

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Spain from 30-31 May 2017, after a gap of 28 years. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Mr. Mariano Rajoy, and called on His Majesty King Felipe VI. He addressed a meeting of prominent Spanish CEOs during which he extended an invitation for Spanish companies to invest in India. The first formal meeting of the India-Spain CEOs Forum was held on 31 May 2017. The co-chairs of the CEOs Forum briefed the leaders of both countries on the outcome of their meeting. A Joint Statement on Cooperation for Peace, Development and Innovation was issued, which laid out a road map for cooperation on bilateral as well as international issues. During the visit, Agreements/MoUs on visa waiver for holders of Diplomatic Passport; Cyber security; cooperation between Diplomatic Academies; transfer of Convicted Persons; bilateral co-operation in the field of organ and tissue procurement and transplantation; technical cooperation in the field of civil aviation; renewable energy and twinning agreement between the cities of Ahmedabad and Valladolid were concluded.



*Prime Minister with President Mr. Mariano Rajoy of Spain in May 2017.*

Secretary (West), Ms. Ruchi Ghanshyam visited Madrid on 16 May 2017, during which she met Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ildefonso Castro. Bilateral as well as international issues and the keys of outcomes for Prime Minister's visit were discussed. Secretary (West) called on Foreign Minister Mr. Alfonso Dastis. She also addressed a meeting of the India-Spain Council Foundation. The Political Director, Mr. Enrique Mora visited Delhi on 23 May 2017 for the second round of Security Policy Dialogue. The second round of negotiations on the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement also took place during the visit. Spain supported India's candidature for the re-election of Judge Dalveer Bhandari to the International Court of Justice. India supported the candidature of Ambassador Fernando Arias for election as the next Director General of the OPCW. Spain also extended reciprocal support for the IMO Council. President Rajoy issued a letter of condolence to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi after the Amarnath Yatra terrorist attack.

On the commercial front, bilateral trade increased by 13% during the six month period of April – September 2017 and stood at US\$ 2.965 billion compared with the same period last year. During this period India's exports to Spain stood at US\$ 2.273 billion while India's imports from Spain decreased and stood at US\$ 692 million. Bilateral review meeting of the Science & Technology Steering Committee was held in Madrid on 1 September 2017, which discussed cooperation in Energy, Bio Technology, Agri technology for Smart Cities, Information Technology and Nano Technology. The second India-Spain Forum focused on energy issues was organized in Madrid on 16 November 2017. India participated in several trade fairs held in Madrid including the Mobile World Congress, Intergift and Smart City Expo World Congress.

Following Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's directives to expand India's trade and investment promotion efforts beyond Madrid, Ambassador visited major Spanish regional business hubs to participate in business events: Barcelona, Girona, Pamplona, Bilbao, Santander, Valencia, Alicante, Murcia, Cartagena, Valladolid and Santiago de Compostela. Regional co-operation was further strengthened through State facilitation efforts under which visits of official-cum-business

delegations were organized from the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. India was Partner Country in 'San Sebastian Gastronomika', held in San Sebastian from 8-11 October 2017. India was also 'Guest Country' of one of the major Interior Tourism Fairs to Spain held in Valladolid from 23-26 November 2017.

The International Yoga Day was celebrated at the Reina Sofia Museum Square on 18 June 2017 as well as in Valladolid, Barcelona, Tenerife and 17 other cities totalling about 3200 participants. The first India-Spain Sanskrit Round Table was held in Madrid, Valladolid and Tenerife from 19-21 October 2017, following which the first-ever international document in Sanskrit was issued in the context of these discussions. An India-Spain Virtual Academic bridge was started by the Embassy to bring together academicians from both countries. The first ever public celebration of Diwali took place in Madrid in cooperation with the City Council and the local Indian Community, which was attended by more than 5000 people. India's Independence Day celebration took place in Tenerife in August 2017 with a cultural performance that was well attended by the local Indian community. Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ms. Riva Ganguly Das visited Valladolid, Spain for the Casa de la India Board Meeting on 30 November 2017. A delegation led by Commerce Secretary attended the 11th session of Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) held in Madrid on 17-18 January 2018. India was a partner country in the 2018 edition of International Tourism Trade Fair (FITUR) held in Madrid.

## Sweden

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar visited Sweden in September 2017. MoS met the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs and State Secretary to the Swedish Prime Minister, Hans Dahlgren.

A 10-member Indian Parliamentary delegation, led by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Surendrajeet Singh Ahluwalia, visited Sweden in May 2017 and had a meeting with Swedish Speaker of Parliament.



*Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar meets with Speaker of Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) Mr. Urban Ahlin and Members of Parliament in September 2017.*

Secretary (West) Ruchi Ghanashyam visited Sweden to hold 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations with her Swedish counterpart Annika Soder, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in June 2017.

Mr. Atul Chaturvedi, Additional Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, led a 4-member Indian delegation to Stockholm in June 2017.

In October 2017, Indian delegation led by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry (CIM), visited Sweden to participate in the 'Make in India: : Sweden 2017' event. The delegation included Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries; Additional Secretary, DIPP; Additional Secretary and DG CGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Economic Adviser and Smart City Head, Smart City Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; and PS to CIM. State delegations included from Maharashtra, led by Chief Minister; Karnataka, led by Industries Minister; Manipur, led by Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister; UP and Andhra Pradesh.

India was the theme country of the the mega Stockholm Cultural Festival which took place from 15-20 August, 2017.

Mr. Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, and Dr. Sunil Gupta, Additional Director and Head Division of Microbiology, National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, visited Sweden in April 2017, to attend Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) meeting in Stockholm. Mr. Girish Shankar, Secretary; and Ms. Ritu Pande, Director, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public

Enterprises, visited Sweden in April 2017 on a study visit on manufacturing and operational facilities of electric and hybrid mobility/vehicles in Sweden.

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, visited Sweden on an official visit from 14-17 June 2017 and met Swedish Minister of Infrastructure Anna Johansson.

EU Affairs & Trade Minister Ann Linde visited India in May 2017 for the 18th Joint Economic Commission meeting. State Secretary to the Swedish Prime Minister Hans Dahlgren visited India for Cyber Security Summit in October 2017. Minister for Upper Secondary and Adult Education and Training Anna Ekström visited India in January 2017, for the 8th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and in October 2017, for the Nobel Week organized by the Swedish Embassy in New Delhi. Minister for Rural Affairs Sven-Erik Buch visited Gujarat and Maharashtra in November 2017 to follow up on the 'Make in India' initiative. State Secretary to Swedish Defence Minister Jan Salestrand led a delegation to India in December 2017 for 'India-Sweden Defence Industry Day'.

## Switzerland

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Mrs. Doris Leuthard was on a state visit to India from 30 August-02 September 2017. President Leuthard was accompanied by the State Secretary for Economic Affairs Mrs. Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch, State Secretary for International Financial Matters, Mr. Jörg Gasser and a high level business delegation.

President Leuthard had a meeting with the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind. The Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, Finance Minister

Shri Arun Jaitley, Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu, MoS (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines Shri Piyush Goyal and MoS (IC) for Commerce & Industry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman called on President Leuthard.



*Prime Minister, President and Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation at the Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on 31 August 2017.*

On August 31, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a meeting with President Leuthard and addressed the business leaders of both countries. Two MoUs were signed during the visit;

- (i) MoU on Technical cooperation in Railways with Ministry of Railways and
- (ii) MoU between ETH Zurich and Konkan Railways Corporation Limited (KRCL)

Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor (NSA), visited Switzerland on 03-04 November 2017. During the visit, NSA had separate meetings with Mr Ueli Maurer, Federal Councillor; Mr. Jacques Rayroud, Deputy Attorney General; Ms Pascale Baeriswyl, Secretary of State; Mr. Jörg Gasser, State Secretary International Financial Matters and Mr. Roberto Balzaretto, Director of the International Law Directorate.

Ms Pascale Baeriswyl, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs visited India for Foreign Office Consultations with Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West) on 5 December 2017.

## Turkey

Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Republic of Turkey was on a State visit to India from 30 April-1 May 2017.

President Erdogan was accompanied by the Chief of General Staff and five cabinet ministers. President Erdogan had a meeting with President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a meeting with President Erdogan. Vice President and EAM separately called on President Erdogan. President Erdogan was conferred an honorary degree by Jamia Milia Islamia University. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Erdogan addressed the India-Turkey Business Forum during the visit.

The following bilateral agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit:

- (i) Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2017-2020;
- (ii) MoU for Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, MEA, India and the Diplomacy Academy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey;
- (iii) Agreement on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of the Members of Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post;
- (iv) MoU between Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) of Turkey;
- (v) Cooperation Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Anadolu Agency (AA) of Turkey.



*Prime Minister and the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan with the leaders of business forums of India and Turkey at the India-Turkey Business Summit, in New Delhi on 1 May 2017.*

A delegation of the 41st Higher Air Command Course (HACC) visited Turkey for a Study Tour in Turkey from 9-13 October 2017. Another delegation from the Higher Defence Management Course (HDMC), College of Defence Management, Secunderabad also visited Turkey on a Study Management Tour from 23-29 October 2017.

Shri Yudhvir Singh Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) and Shri Deepak Kumar, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India visited Turkey on 23-25 November 2017.

Dr. Omer Fatih Sayan, Chairman of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) of Turkey participated in the Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 in New Delhi on 23-24 November 2017.

Shri (Dr.) Mahesh Sharma, MoS (I/C) for Culture and MOS in Ministry of Climate Change, Forest and Environment, held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Numan Kurtulmu Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey on 11 December 2017 on the sidelines of the 2nd UN World Tourism

Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism & Culture, which was held in Muscat during 11-12 December 2017.

Secretary (West) Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam visited Turkey on 10-11 February 2017 and had a meeting with Ambassador Umit Yalcin, Undersecretary (Foreign Secretary-equivalent), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

## **United Kingdom**

The strategic partnership between India and the United Kingdom continued to expand through diverse streams of cooperation in line with the directions given by the Prime Ministers of India and the United Kingdom. Prince of Wales along with the Duchess of Cornwall visited India on 8-9 November 2017. A wide range of issues, including the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting scheduled to take place in London in April 2018, were discussed between him and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.



*Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi receiving Prince of Wales, Charles Philip Arthur George and the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla Parker Bowles at Hyderabad House, New Delhi on 8 November 2017*

Several events heralding celebration of the year 2017 as the India-UK Year of Culture, launched by Her Majesty the Queen, took place in India and the United Kingdom with the grand finale on 28 November 2017 showcasing a Bharat Symphony performance with an Indian maestro and the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican, London.

Bilateral engagements in the political sphere flourished with the reciprocal visits of MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar to London in October 2017, preceded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister of State for Asia Mr. Mark Field's visit to India in September 2017. The British Minister of State Lord Tarique Ahmad visited India in August 2017 as well as on 23-24 November 2017 when he led the UK delegation for participation in the fifth edition of the Global Conference on Cyber Space, New Delhi.

The First Home Affairs Dialogue between India and UK was held on 4 May 2017 at the Home Secretary-UK Permanent Secretary level as a follow up to the commitment of the Prime Ministers of both countries for an enhanced and strengthened Dialogue mechanism in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance, visa policy and implementation and migration. The second edition of this Dialogue was held in London on 17 July 2017 to explore avenues to further cooperation across these areas.

An India-UK Track 1.5 Dialogue on Cyber Issues was held at Chatham House, London on 12 September 2017 to share

information between India and UK on their respective approach to cyber issues, alignment of strategies to facilitate investment and innovations in cyber security and explore ways to promote an inclusive digital economy. The 11th meeting of the India-UK Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in London on 25 October 2017 that witnessed sharing of expertise on counter-terrorism, threat assessments as well as global security analysis of different regions.

The ninth round of the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 4 April 2017 between Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. Philip Hammond. The Dialogue covered discussions on the status of the global economy and policy responses, trade and investment, business environment, financial services relationship and ways to finance India's growth and development in FinTech. The launch of an Early Market Engagement for the joint UK-India Fund was announced viz. a Green Growth Equity Fund that aims to leverage private sector investment from the City of London to invest in green infrastructure projects in India. Both governments reaffirmed their commitment to anchor invest up to £120 million each in the joint fund to be established under India's National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) framework.

UK Chancellor along with FinTech envoy Ms. Eileen Burbidge, Commercial Secretary Baroness Neville-Rolfe and



International Trade Minister Mr. Mark Garnier and a senior business delegation including leaders from UK FinTech and financial services firms also participated at the India-UK Fintech Conference in Mumbai on 5 April 2017.

The inaugural India-UK Energy for Growth Dialogue was held on 6-7 April 2017 in New Delhi with the participation of the then Minister for New & Renewable Energy, Coal and Mines Shri Piyush Goyal and UK Business Secretary Mr. Greg Clark. Technical assistance of £20 million was announced by the UK for collaboration on power, renewable energy access and efficiency and oil and gas. Greg Clark also held talks with Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan on 6 April 2017 and discussed energy finance and promoted opportunities in the Indian market.

UJALA (affordable LEDs for all) – a flagship scheme of India's Energy Efficiency Services Limited was launched by the then Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy, Coal and Mines Shri Piyush Goyal in London on 12-14 May 2017. An investment of around £7 million under the UJALA scheme has been put into seven UK energy saving projects after requisite project feasibility assessment by EESL.

MoS (I/C) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, visited London from 1-4 April 2017, to inaugurate the second International Ayurveda Congress. Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari visited the UK on 11-13 May 2017 to launch the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) issuance of its Masala Bond at the London Stock Exchange through NHAI raised ₹ 3000 crore. Indian Railway Finance Corporation raised US\$ 500 million through its maiden green finance bond issue on 6 December 2017. Ministry of Textiles Secretary Rashmi Verma visited UK on 3-4 April 2017 on a 'Road Show' in London to give wide publicity to "Textiles India 2017" event scheduled from 30 June – 2 July 2017 in Gujarat. Union Cabinet Minister of Food Processing Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal visited UK on 14 July 2017 to spearhead a 'Road Show' on "World Food India 2017" event scheduled from 3-5 November 2017 in Delhi.

Britain remained as a favourite destination for State Governments aiming to attract foreign investment and to lobby participation in industry-specific events. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandrababu Naidu visited the UK on 24-25 October 2017 to seek investment, adoption of new technologies and for finalization of iconic structures to come up in the capital city of Amaravati. Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt Mamata Banerjee, visited UK from 11-17

November 2017 to attend a roundtable business seminar organized by FICCI and UKIBC with prominent industrialists, chambers of Commerce, Industries and institutions in London. She also had business meetings with Scottish Development International (SDI) in Edinburgh, for exploring opportunities for trade and economic cooperation between Scotland and West Bengal and establishing business tie ups and multi-sector collaborations across industry. Assam Minister of Industries & Commerce Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary visited London from 5-7 November 2017 in connection with a 'Road Show' for Global Investors' Summit – Advantage Assam to showcase the economic and manufacturing strength of Assam. A number of State Government Tourism Ministers also visited London to take part in the annual World Travel Mart from 5-7 November 2017.

Defence cooperation continued with the 1st India-UK Strategic Summit between Union Finance and Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon during the latter's visit to India on 11-14 April 2017. It was envisaged to nurture stronger military to military engagement including training and advanced joint exercises. Naval and maritime interactions, including enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) would be further boosted through a bilateral technical agreement to exchange information to track terrorist and pirate vessels. It was also agreed to intensify cooperation between the UK Hydrographic Office and the Indian Navy Hydrographic Office.

The eighteenth Defence Consultative Group meeting was held in London on 9-10 October 2017 at Defence Secretary-UK MOD Permanent Secretary level. Executive Steering Group meetings between the Indian Army and Indian Air Force and their UK counterparts took place on 22-23 May 2017 and 24-27 May 2017 in the UK respectively. The close ties between the defence services of both countries by the visits of First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Philip Jones on 6 March 2017, UK Chief of Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach to India from 19-23 July 2017, UK Chief of Air Staff Sir Stephen Hillier from 15-17 November 2017.

Joint Exercises also added flavour to the robust bilateral defence engagement. In May 2017, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy INS Tarkash called at Plymouth for Konkan 17, the annual bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy which involved had a wide range of professional engagements – in harbour and at sea. INS Tarkash sailed on to

dock in London where the ship participated in activities related to India UK – Year of Culture, Make in India initiatives and commemorating 200 years of HMS Trincomalee. In August 2017, the Indian Naval Band participated for the first time at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to commemorate 70 years of India's independence. Indian companies engaged in defence manufacturing participated in the Defence Security Equipment International Exhibition held in the UK from 12-15 September 2017. The bilateral Army Exercise named Ajeya Warrior is being held in India at Jaisalmer from 1-14 December 2017.

Cooperation in the realm of Defence Research & Development was reviewed in the fifth Steering Committee meeting between DRDO and DSTL (UK) held in January 2017 at GTRE, Bengaluru. Progress in R&D projects in the areas of 'Gender Integration and Resilience Building in Military Operations' and 'Internal Corrosion in Naval Platforms' was discussed at this meeting. A Joint Working Group (JWG) is scheduled to be held on 13 December 2017 in New Delhi to discuss the current status of ongoing projects and scout further areas for collaboration.

A new Joint Strategic Group on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) with a joint investment of up to £13 million was launched in 2016. Under this initiative a mapping report on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research in India, which was released by the UK Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation Mr. Jo Johnson and Indian Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Shri Y S Chowdary in New Delhi. The UK-India Strategic Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research held its second meeting in New Delhi on 7 November 2017 to discuss mutual research priorities to tackle AMR. A meeting of researchers working on AMR was also held in New Delhi from 7-10 November 2017. Nine shortlisted outline project proposals received from researchers will be evaluated jointly in February 2018 for implementation and funding in July 2018.

High Commission of India activated several channels to renew engagement with UK business and the Indian origin community in the UK. The High Commission launched an Access India Programme, a market entry support programme aimed at facilitating investments by UK SMEs in India on 27 September 2017 and thereafter again held at different venues across the UK including Birmingham, Nottingham and Manchester. India-UK CEOs Forum was held on 16 June 2017 in London with wide-ranging discussions held on trade and investment market access issues including bilateral Investment Treaty, food and drinks industry, digital economy,

low carbon economies as well as defence, manufacturing and security. During 2016-17, UK ranked 15th in the list of India's top 25 trading partners and despite the uncertainties on account of Brexit, India-UK trade remained resilient. India retained its position as 3rd largest investor in the UK. India also emerged as the 2nd largest international job creator in Britain. UK retained its position as one of the largest inward investors in India, after Mauritius, Singapore and Japan with a cumulative equity investment of US\$ 24.73 billion (April 2000- June 2017). It dropped to second rank among the G20 countries and accounts for around 7% of all foreign direct investment into India for the period April 2000 – June 2017.

High Commission of India celebrated the International Day of Yoga, on 21 June 2017, at Trafalgar Square. The International Day of Yoga was also celebrated by All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Indian Traditional Sciences, in the UK Parliament. The second Ayurveda Day was celebrated on 17 October 2017 at High Commission of India, London as well as in the UK Parliament in close coordination with the APPG.

The Indian High Commission in London launched the 350th Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh ji on 6 January, 2017 with year-long celebrations witnessing, inter alia, many first-time visits to Gurudwaras, first-ever commemorative celebration with Sikh devotional music at India House, creation of a special commemorative photo-exhibition in association with Victoria and Albert Museum, and the first ever grand scale Baisakhi celebrations in April 2017 attended by around twenty thousand people. Plays and Sikh devotional music shows were organized in many cities outside London. Attention was drawn to hitherto less-addressed issues like contributions of Sikhs in the two World Wars, even as part of the Labour Corps under the India Unremembered project. High Commission of India in association with Indo-British All-Party Parliamentary Group also organised a Seminar in the House of Commons on 7 December 2017.

4 Members of Parliament from the UK visited India from 6 to 11 November 2017 as part of familiarisation visit of British Parliamentarians to India. During their visit they called on Hon'ble Vice President of India - Shri Venkiah Naidu, Minister of State for External Affairs - Gen. (Dr). V.K.Singh (retd), Foreign Secretary – Dr. S. Jaishankar and visited several economic and research institutions.

14 British Members of Parliament of Indian origin participated in the First PIO Parliamentary Conference held on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2018 on 9 January

2018 in New Delhi. The UK PIO MPs delegation was led by Ms. Priti Patel, MP from House of Commons.

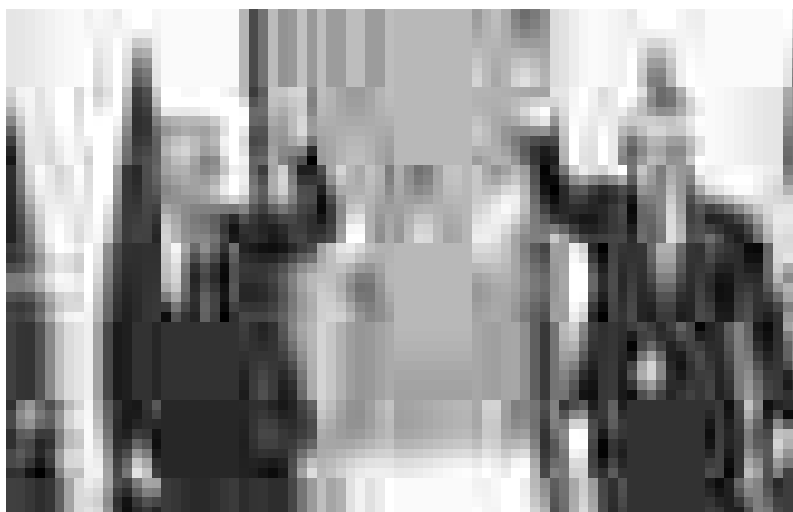
A delegation led by Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju visited London from 11 to 13 January 2018 at the invitation of UK Minister of State for Immigration, Mr. Brandon Lewis to discuss various issues pertaining to Immigration and finalize the MoUs on Returns and Criminal Records.

## European Union

India and the EU are the world's two largest democracies, which both draw on deep cultural histories and are jointly committed to the promotion of peace, stability, security, prosperity, sustainable development and social justice, as well as to the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and good governance. Both see each other as natural partners in preserving a multi-polar, rule-based international order, upholding international norms, global peace and stability and

encouraging inclusive growth and sustainable development in all parts of the world. We have age-old cultural and people-to-people links – and a huge Indian Diaspora in Europe is an effective bridge between EU and India.

The EU-India Strategic Partnership was created in 2004. India is one of EU's ten 'Strategic Partners'. India-EU Strategic Partnership was further strengthened during the 14th Summit held on 6 October 2017 in New Delhi. The EU top leadership was represented by Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission and Ms. Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The Summit saw discussions on a wide range of issues including foreign and security policy, migration, trade, climate, research and innovation. A 53-para Joint Statement was issued by the Leaders which reflected common understanding on these areas and reaffirmed commitment to strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership.



*14th India-EU Summit - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flanked on the left by Donald Tusk, President of the EU Council and on the right by EU Commission President Juncker at the Hyderabad House, New Delhi*

The leaders showed their satisfaction at the progress made towards implementing the India-EU Agenda for action 2020. The two sides reiterated their commitment to a comprehensive approach and cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism. An India-EU Joint Statement on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism was adopted. Both sides, keeping in view their commitment under Paris Climate Agreement, also adopted India-EU Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Climate Change to implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and lowering of greenhouse gas emissions. Stepping forward, both India and EU agreed to

intensify their cooperation in the framework of International Solar Alliance (ISA) including training and affordable finances. A Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the European Investment Bank (EIB) aimed at mobilizing investments for broad-based deployment of affordable solar energy applications across the 121 prospective member countries of the ISA was adopted.

The two sides also agreed to enhance India-EU cooperation on Urban Development, in terms of an ever increasing urban

population, with participation of Indian States and cities, EU Member States and regions/cities, building on regular dialogue on issues such as infrastructure, energy, sanitation and water management, to promote dialogue and partnership/twinning between local, regional and state entities and adopted a Joint Declaration on Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanization. During the Summit, the two sides signed documents for (i) implementing Arrangement between the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) and the European Research Council (ERC); and (ii) new 500 million EIB loan agreement for constructing a new line and 96 new trains for Bangalore Metro Phase-II project.

The European Parliament, on its own initiative, commissioned a report by its Foreign Relations Committee on India-EU relations. The report released on 28 June 2017, reflects the perceptions of the European Parliament on the India-EU relationship and indicates that the EU is well-informed of the contours of the relationship, and that they would like to see it broadened to new areas of convergence in a changing world order. The report called for a more comprehensive engagement of the EU with India. The report was voted upon and went through with a majority support of 520 out of 679 votes.

The 4th India-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility was held in Brussels on 4 April 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Secretary (OIA & CPV) while Mr. Matthias Ruete, Director General (Home) led the EU delegation. The two sides reached an understanding in advancing the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility, including through technical collaboration and undertaking projects in areas of mutual interest, with a view to better organizing migration and mobility between India and the EU.

Prior to the India-EU Summit, the EU High Representative (EU HR) Ms. Federica Mogherini visited India on 21-22 April 2017 for the 24th Ministerial Meeting, where she held delegation level talks with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar. EU HR also called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Separately, on the sidelines of the Bled Strategic Forum in Bled, Slovenia on 5 September 2017, MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar met EU High Representative Ms. Federica Mogherini and discussed issues of mutual interest including preparations for the 14th India-EU Summit. The ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) hosted by the EU, was held in Brussels on 22-

23 June 2017. On the sidelines, the 1st session of ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) was held on 21 June 2017. The deliberations focused on the scope and future of ASEM and preparation for the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting.

The 24th India-EU Joint Commission was held in Brussels on 14 July 2017 and discussed progress in implementation of EU-India Agenda for action 2020 as well as preparation for the 14th India-EU Summit. The Indian delegation to the Joint Commission was led by Smt Anita Praveen, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce and the EU side by Mr. Gunnar Wiegand, Managing Director for Asia and Pacific at the European External Action Service.

India and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to enhance maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean and beyond. The Indian Navy Vessel INS Trishul conducted joint manoeuvres (PASSEX) with the Italian Flagship and the EU's Naval Force Operation ATALANTA off the coast of Somalia on 4 October 2017. Whilst aboard, the Indian and Italian crews practiced drills for Boarding Operations, ship handling and communications exercises. It was the first ever joint India-EU naval exercise.

The EU Commissioner for Mobility & Transport, Ms. Violeta Bulc visited India from 16-19 December, 2017 and held meetings on transport and mobility with Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Mr. Nitin Gadkari; Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr. Ashok Gajapathi Raju; Minister of Railways, Mr. Piyush Goyal; and Minister of State of Housing and Urban Affairs, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri.

The EU, as a bloc of 28 countries, continued to be India's largest regional trading partner, while India was the EU's 9th largest trading partner in 2016. India's bilateral trade (in both goods and services) with the EU during 2016 (January-December) was US\$ 125.73 billion [bilateral trade in goods US\$ 91.36 billion and bilateral trade in services US\$ 34.36 billion]. India's exports of goods to the EU stood at US\$ 46.57 billion while India's imports from the EU were valued at US\$ 44.79 billion. India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU during 2017 (January-August) stood at US\$ 67.30 billion; with India's exports valued at US\$ 35.55 billion and India's imports from the EU at US\$ 31.76 billion. India received around US\$ 80 billion in FDI flows from Europe during 2000-16 constituting approximately 25% of the total FDI inflows into the country during the period.

## The Americas

### Canada

India-Canada bilateral relations have seen a transformation in recent years. The ties are underpinned by shared values of democracy and pluralism; regular high-level interactions covering political, security, trade and economic spheres; as well as vibrant people-to-people contacts. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Canada in April 2015 has reinvigorated the bilateral ties and elevated the relationship to the level of strategic partnership. This year's highlight was Canada co-partnering the Technology Summit 2017, held in New Delhi on 14 & 15 November 2017.

### High level Engagements

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau on the margins of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany on 7 July 2017. The leaders discussed possible measures to advance the bilateral partnership in areas such as education, trade, investment and connectivity as well as cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism. Both leaders also had telephone conversations regarding the Paris Agreement on 19 June 2017 and the flood situation in India on 11 September 2017.



*Prime Minister meeting the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Justin Trudeau, on the sidelines of the 12th G20 Summit, at Hamburg, Germany on 7 July 2017.*

### Visits from India

1. Minister of Steel Mr. Chaudhary Birender Singh visited Toronto, Calgary and Winnipeg in Canada from 9-14 July 2017.
2. A high-level delegation led by Indian Chief Justice Dipak Misra visited Ottawa, Canada on 15-18 October

2017 to participate in the 6th Indo-Canadian Legal Forum meeting.

3. Minister of State for Defense Dr. Shubhash Bhamre led a delegation to the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial (UNPKDM) meeting held in Vancouver, Canada from 14-15 November 2017.

4. Minister for Industries and Commerce of Assam Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary led a business delegation to Toronto from 29-30 November 2017 to promote investment from Canada to Assam.

## Visits from Canada

- Minister of Defence Mr. Harjit Singh Sajjan visited India (Delhi, Amritsar, Chandigarh and Mumbai) from 17-25 April 2017.
- Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Mr. Navdeep Bains led a delegation for the Technology Summit to India (Delhi and Pune) on 12-16 November 2017.
- Minister of International Trade Mr. Francois Philippe Champagne visited India (Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru) for Technology Summit and Trade Ministerial Dialogue from 11-17 November 2017.
- Minister of Transport Mr. Marc Garneau visited India on 11-14 November 2017.

## Parliamentary Delegation to Canada

- Member of Parliament Shri Sharad Tripathi; Chief Government Whip, Tamil Nadu Member of Legislative Assembly Shri S. Rajendran and Gujarat Member of Legislative Assembly Shri Mangubhai Chhaganlal Patel, attended the 14th Parliamentary Seminar held in Ottawa, Canada on 15-21 October 2017.
- 4 Members of Parliament (Shri Prathap Singh, Smt Priyanka Singh, Shri Mohammad Fayaz and Shri Conard Kongkal Sangma) visited Ottawa for Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference of Youth Parliamentarian from 17 to 18 November 2017.

## Finance, Trade and Industry

Bilateral Trade amounted to US\$ 6.13 billion for Financial Year (FY) 2016-17 and stood at US\$ 3.55 billion for the period April – September 2017. India's export to Canada during this period was US\$ 1.4 billion and import from Canada was US\$ 2.4 billion.

Canadian Pension Funds have cumulatively invested (till September 2017) around US\$ 11.20 billion in India and are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for investments. More than 400 Canadian companies have a presence in India, and more than 1,000 companies are actively pursuing business in the Indian market. Indian companies in Canada are active in the field such as Information Technology, software, steel, natural resources and banking sectors. Notable

Indian companies invested in Canada are ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Mahindra Tractors, Tata Steel Minerals Canada, Tata Consultancy Services, Jaguar Land Rover, Tata Communications and Indian Oil Corporation.

4th Annual Trade Ministerial Dialogue was held on 13 November 2017 in New Delhi. Minister of International Trade, Canada and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu chaired the meeting. During the meeting, both sides expressed their strong commitment for early finalization of CEPA and BIPPA negotiations.

Technical negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) were held on 21-23 August 2017 and on 2-3 November 2017 in New Delhi respectively.

## Defence

Canadian Minister of Defence Mr. Harjit Singh Sajjan visited India on 17-25 April 2017 at the invitation of Minister of Defence Shri Arun Jaitley. He also met External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj. During the meetings, issues relating to cooperation in cold climate warfare, peacekeeping, Canada's participation in Make in India in defence sector as well as counter-terrorism and counter-extremism were discussed.

Canadian ship HMCS Winnipeg made a port visit in Mumbai from 13 - 17 May 2017.

## Civil Nuclear Cooperation

During the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Canada in April 2015, Canadian Department of Atomic Energy and M/s CAMECO Inc. had signed an agreement for supply of 3000 metric tonnes of uranium ore concentrate to India in 2015-2020. The fourth shipment of uranium under this agreement arrived on 4 September 2017.

## Science and Technology

Canada was a partner country for the Technology Summit 2017, held in New Delhi on 14 and 15 November 2017. The Summit, organized jointly by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), was inaugurated by Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Mr. Navdeep Singh Bains. The Technology Summit highlighted a broad range of research and innovations areas of common interests. The 175-member Canadian delegation to the Summit included

Canadian Minister of International Trade Mr. Francois Champagne and Canadian Minister of Transport Mr. Marc Garneau besides large number of industries and academic institutions.

Secretary, Department of Science and Technology Professor Ashutosh Sharma and President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Dr. B. Mario Pinto, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 14 November 2017 that will facilitate continuation of the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS).

6th Meeting of Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee was held in New Delhi on 15 November 2017. The Committee was chaired by Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Professor Ashutosh Sharma and President of the NSERC of Canada Dr. B. Mario Pinto. Both side reviewed the status of ongoing activities and finalized the Action Plan for 2017-18 which envisages collaboration in the emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology, 3D printing, etc.

## Foreign Office Consultations

Secretary (East) Ms. Preeti Saran visited Canada (Ottawa and Toronto) for bilateral consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Ian Shugart. She also met Minister of International Trade Mr. Francois Champagne, National Security Advisor Mr. Daniel Jean and Finance Minister of Ontario Mr. Charles Sousa.

Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia Pacific, Global Affairs Mr. Donald Bobiash visited India on 26 September 2017, and met Secretary (East) Ms. Preeti Saran and Secretary (Agriculture Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare) Shri. S.K. Pattanayak.

## Agriculture

Steady progress in agricultural cooperation between India and Canada has been made following the signing of MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors in January 2009. The 10th Meeting of Plant Health Technical Working group was held on 11-12 September 2017 in New Delhi. 5th Joint Working Group on Agriculture was held in New Delhi on 14 November 2017. Both side identified priority areas of cooperation that included emerging technologies and agriculture marketing.

## Transportation

India and Canada continued their engagements on

cooperation in the Transportation sector. Minister of Transport Mr. Marc Garneau visited India from 11-14 November 2017. A joint declaration between Minister of the Department of Transport of Canada and the Minister, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation was signed on 14 November 2017 on the extension of the MoU on Cooperation on Road Transportation.

Air Canada started a direct flight from Mumbai to Toronto from 17 July 2017.

## People to People contacts

The year witnessed a significant increase in the number of Indian students going to Canada for studies. Currently, there are about 1,00,000 Indian students studying in Canada who act as a living bridge between the two countries.

The Indian Department of Posts and Canada Post for the first time jointly issued commemorative stamps on the theme of Diwali on 21 September 2017. The stamps feature a diya, the traditional Diwali lamp, with fireworks in the background.

On 29 September 2017, High Commission of India, Ottawa organized the "India Day", as part of "Ottawa Welcomes the World 2017" to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation and the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence. This day-long event, held in coordination with Indo Canadian associations in Ottawa and Montreal, was an exemplary showcase of Indian art, culture, tradition and cuisine. The function was officially inaugurated by Canadian Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Mr. Amarjeet Sohi and Mayor of Ottawa Mr. Jim Watson.

The High Commission of India, Ottawa in association with the Canada- India Centre for Excellence, Carleton University organized a Symposium on Sikhism on 27 November 2017. The Symposium was organized in honour of 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, as well as to highlight diversity in Canada and India.

## Culture

Canada was country of focus at the 48th edition of the International Film Festival of India held in Goa in November 2017. Eight Canadian films were screened at the Festival and Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on Mr. Atom Egoyan, a renowned Canadian filmmaker at the festival.

## For the period January-March 2018

- Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Justin Trudeau is scheduled to visit India from February 18 -23, 2018.

- Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of ISRO, had launched a microsatellite (Telesat LEO Phase 1) from Canada as co-passenger satellites in PSLV-C40 mission on 12 January 2018.
- Former Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Stephen Harper is scheduled to participate in Raisina Dialogue from 16-18 January 2018.
- The 15th Meeting of India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 5-6 February 2018.
- Quebec Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie Ms. Christine St. Pierre is scheduled to visit India from 12 -18 February 2018 to attend the World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi.
- Minister of Mines and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar is expected to travel to Toronto to attend the major international convention Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada PDAC-18 from 7-9 March 2018 in Canada.

## United States

India has a strong and multi-faceted strategic partnership with the US which today touches almost every aspect of human life. Our relations are based on shared values, growing convergence in strategic perspectives and strong people-to-people contacts.

Apart from the bilateral significance of the relationship, the two countries are collaborating and coordinating on a number of regional and global issues in both security as well as development spheres.

During 2017, the India-United States (US) bilateral relations witnessed progress in all key areas of the strategic partnership, including security, economic, energy, technology and people-to-people contact. With the assumption of Office by President Mr. Donald Trump in early 2017 in the US, there were regular high-level engagements with the new Administration. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was one of the first foreign leaders to speak to President-elect Mr. Donald Trump on 9 November 2016. Since then, both leaders have met thrice and spoken on phone on several occasions.

## Visit of Prime Minister to the US

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the United States of America (USA) on 25 & 26 June 2017 at the invitation of the US President Donald Trump. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's engagements included official talks with President Trump; remarks to the press; a reception hosted by the First Lady Ms. Melania Trump; and a dinner hosted by President Trump and the First Lady. He also had a meeting with Vice President Mr. Mike Pence. Other engagements included calls by Defence Secretary Mr. Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Mr. Rex Tillerson; interaction with US CEOs and address to the Indian Community.



*Prime Minister with the President of United States of America, Mr. Donald Trump and the first lady of USA, Melania Trump, at White House, in Washington DC, USA on 26 June 2017.*



The discussions between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Trump were very cordial, detailed and extensive, covering all key areas of India-US Strategic Partnership: defence and security; counter-terrorism; trade and economic issues; energy; people-to-people contacts; and regional and

international issues. The two leaders resolved to expand and deepen the India-US strategic partnership and advance common objectives. The outcomes and understanding reached were reflected in the Joint Statement issued during the visit and are summarized below:



*James Mattis, United States Secretary of Defense calls on Prime Minister in Washington D.C. during his three-day visit to USA on 26 June 2017.*

- The Leaders committed to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation including by expanding information-sharing arrangements. It was decided to establish a new consultation mechanism on domestic and international terrorist designations listing proposals. The US decided to designate Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. The leaders also affirmed their support for a United Nations (UN) Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
- The leaders called on Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries. They further called on Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of the 26 November Mumbai, Pathankot, and other cross-border terrorist attacks perpetrated by Pakistan-based groups.
- The leaders agreed to deepen defense and maritime-security cooperation. The two countries will work together on advanced defense equipment and technology at a level commensurate with that of the closest allies and partners of the United States.
- The leaders agreed to strengthen the India-US partnership in the Indo-Pacific region, and committed to a set of common principles to ensure peace and prosperity in the region.
- The United States expressed strong support for India's early membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Australia Group. President Trump reaffirmed the support of the United States for India's permanent membership on a reformed UN Security Council.
- President Trump welcomed further Indian contributions to promote Afghanistan's democracy, stability, prosperity, and security. The leaders committed to continue close consultations and cooperation in support of Afghanistan's future.
- The leaders committed to intensifying their economic cooperation; removing obstacles to growth and jobs creation; and pursuing increased commercial

engagement in a manner that advances the principles of free and fair trade. There was recognition by both sides that growth in economies of both countries will create new opportunities for cooperation. The two countries will undertake a comprehensive review of trade relations with the goal of expediting regulatory processes; ensuring that technology and innovation are appropriately fostered, valued, and protected; and increasing market access in goods and services.

- The leaders affirmed the continued importance of their Strategic Energy Partnership and of leveraging new opportunities to elevate cooperation.
- The leaders agreed to intensify the mutually beneficial digital partnership to fully harness their innovation

capabilities. They also agreed to strengthen their cyber-security cooperation.

- The leaders reaffirmed the decision to co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in India in 2017.
- India's entry into the International Expedited Traveler Initiative (Global Entry programme) was formalized ahead of the visit.

## Other Summit-Level Bilateral Interactions

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a bilateral meeting with President Trump at Manila on the margins of East Asia Summit on 13 November 2017. Both leaders also met during the G-20 Summit at Hamburg, Germany in July 2017.



*Prime Minister meets Donald J. Trump, President of United States on the sidelines of 12th East Asia Summit, Manila on 13 November 2017.*

## Other Major Exchanges in 2017

The year witnessed a series of high-level engagements with the US which significantly intensified after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Washington DC in June 2017.

High-Level visits from India to the US included:

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj visited New York from 18-22 September 2017 for the

UN General Assembly (UNGA) and related meetings. During the visit, she met US Secretary of State Mr. Rex Tillerson on 22 September 2017 on the margins of UNGA. They also met during the Ministerial-level India-US-Japan Trilateral meeting held on 18 September 2017.

- Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley visited USA from 9-15 October 2017 to attend the annual Fund-Bank

meetings at Washington DC. He had earlier visited Washington DC from 20-24 April 2017 for the spring meetings of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. He met the US Treasury Secretary Mr. Steve Mnuchin and the US Commerce Secretary Mr. Wilbur Ross during these visits.

- Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu visited Washington DC from 26-27 October 2017 for the Trade Policy Forum and the Commercial Dialogue meetings. He met the United States Trade Representative Mr. Robert Lighthizer and the US Commerce Secretary Mr. Wilbur Ross.
- Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal visited the U.S. in September 2017 to interact with the food processing industry and participated in an industry round table organised by US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- In March 2017, Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar, accompanied by the Commerce Secretary, visited the U.S. for the first senior-level interaction with officials of the Trump Administration. They met the newly appointed National Security Advisor (NSA) Gen. H.R. McMaster, Secretary of State Mr. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of Commerce Mr. Wilbur Ross and other senior officials in the Administration.
- National Security Advisor (NSA) Mr. Ajit Doval visited Washington DC in March 2017 during which he held meetings with the U.S. National Security Advisor Mr. H R McMaster, Secretary of Defence Mr. James Mattis, and Secretary of Homeland Security Mr. John Kelly, among others.

### **The followings were the High-Level visits from the US:**

- US Secretary of Defence Mr. James Mattis visited India on 24-26 September 2017 and had delegation level talks with Minister of Defence Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and met NSA Mr. Ajit Doval. Secretary of Defence Mattis again met Minister of Defence Smt Nirmala Sitharaman in Manila on 25 October 2017 on the margins of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)+Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM+).
- US Secretary of State Mr. Rex Tillerson visited India on

24-26 October 2017. He had bilateral meeting with EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and met NSA Mr. Ajit Doval.

- The U.S. National Security Advisor Mr. H.R. McMaster visited India in April during which he held meetings with NSA Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar, and called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- As leader of the US delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit, Advisor to the US President Ms. Ivanka Trump visited Hyderabad from 28-29 November 2017. She called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and EAM.
- US Secretary of Navy Richard V. Spencer visited New Delhi from 21-23 December 2017. He called on Defence Minister and met Foreign Secretary and Chief of Naval Staff.

### **The following delegations from the US Congress visited India:**

- Bob Goodlatte, Chairman of House Judiciary Committee had led an 8-member Bipartisan Congressional delegation from 20-23 February 2017.
- A bipartisan 18-member Congressional delegation coordinated by the ASPEN institute visited New Delhi and Hyderabad from 20-25 February 2017.
- Senator Christopher Coons and Senator Jeff Merkley visited New Delhi and Chennai from 17-21 April 2017 as part of a CARE Learning Tour.
- The U.S. House of Representatives' Democratic Leader Congresswoman Ms. Nancy Pelosi led a seven-member bipartisan Congressional delegation to India from 8-11 May, 2017 that included the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Congressman Eliot Engel and the Chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner.
- Congressman Mr. Rob Wittman accompanied by Delegate Ms. Madeleine Bordallo visited Delhi and Mumbai from 23-24 August 2017.
- A bipartisan nine-member Congressional delegation led by Chairman of the House Committee on Science,

Space and Technology Mr. Lamar Smith visited Delhi and Bangalore from 15-18 October 2017.

- Three Congressional staff delegations also visited India during 20-24 February 2017, 15-22 April 2017 and 16-22 December 2017, respectively.

**The following Chief Ministers and delegations from the States in India visited the US:**

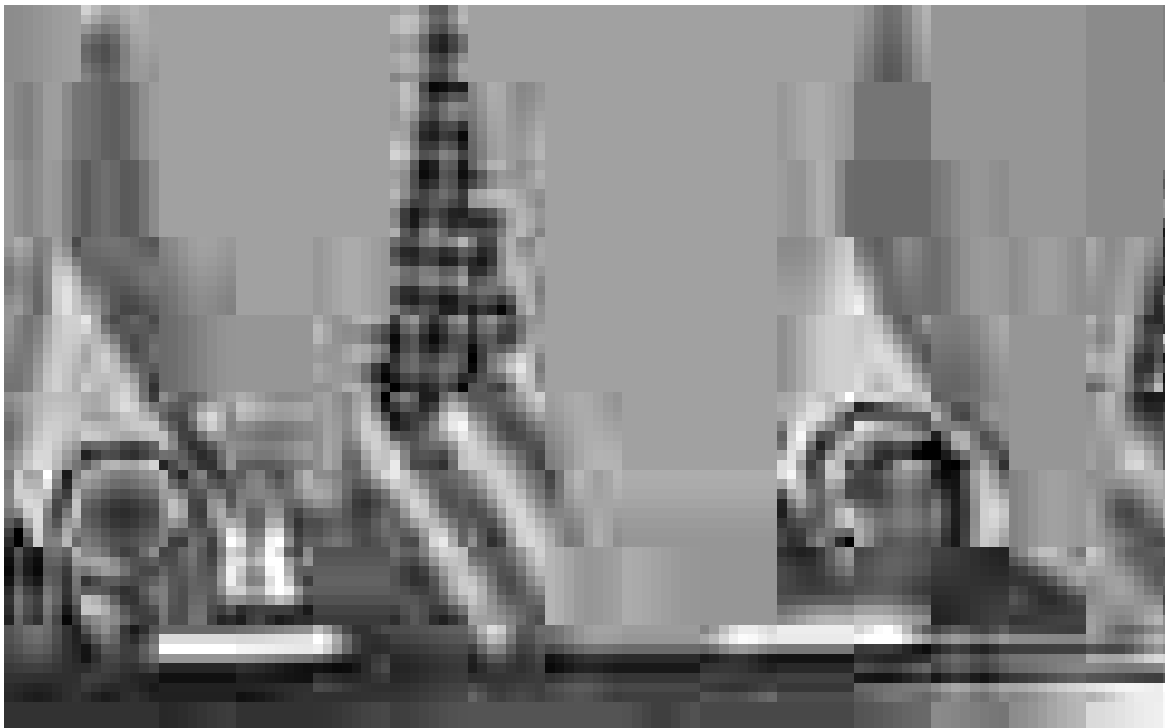
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited USA in October 2017. Among his engagements, the Chief Minister chaired a business seminar titled 'Investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh' which was organized by the Consulate General of India, New York in association with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) & United States India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) on 25 October 2017.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu visited the U.S. in October 2017. He had interactive sessions and meetings with leading business houses, technology firms and financial institutions during his visit. Several projects including infrastructure development in the State and development of the State

Capital at Amaravati were also taken up in the CEOs' roundtable held in New York.

- A delegation from Assam, led by Minister of Industries & Commerce Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary and Minister of Information Technology Shri Keshab Mahanta visited New York from 31 October to 01 November 2017 to promote the "Assam Global Investors Summit 2018 – Advantage Assam" to be held in February 2018 in Assam.

**The following Governors of the U.S. States visited India:**

- Governor of Indiana Mr. Eric Holcomb led a business delegation to India from 28 October-02 November 2017. He visited Agra, Bengaluru, Pune and New Delhi.
- Governor of Mississippi Mr. Phil Bryant led a business delegation to India from 11-15 September 2017. During the trip, Governor Bryant visited New Delhi and Mumbai.
- Governor of Colorado Mr. John Wright Hickenlooper led a business delegation to India from 9-13 October 2017. He visited New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai.



*External Affairs Minister and Mr. Rex W. Tillerson, United States Secretary of State address the media in New Delhi on 25 October 2017.*

## Strategic Consultations

There were regular contacts at official levels on bilateral, regional and global issues.

## India-US Forum

The Ministry of External Affairs, in partnership with the Ananta Aspen Centre, organized the first edition of the India-US Forum from 31 July-1 August 2017 which brought together leading personalities from Government, politics, industry, think-tanks and media for intensive discussions on the India-US relationship.

## Defence

Defence relationship has emerged as a major pillar of India-US strategic partnership with intensification in defence trade, joint exercises, personnel exchanges, and cooperation on maritime security and counter-piracy. The India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) is aimed at promoting co-development and co-production efforts.

The bilateral defence cooperation continued to advance during the year. President Mr. Donald Trump and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during their meeting in June 2017, decided to deepen defence and security cooperation, building on the United States' recognition of India as a Major Defense Partner in 2016.

Maritime security cooperation is an important component of India-US Defence Partnership. During Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the US in June 2017, both sides agreed to expand their maritime security cooperation, including through enhanced collaboration on maritime domain awareness, and explore new exercises. Earlier, the Second India-US Maritime Security Dialogue was held at Newport, Rhode Island, USA from 9-10 May 2017.

## Exercises and Mil-to-Mil Cooperation

Military-to-Military exchanges continued to grow between India and the US during the year. Bilateral exercise Yuddh Abhyas 2017 was held at Seattle, Washington from 14-27 September 2017.

India hosted the 21st edition of the Trilateral Naval Exercise 'Malabar' involving the naval forces of India, United States and Japan from 10-17 July 2017. This was by far the largest and most complex exercise undertaken under this mechanism. There was also joint training between the Special Forces of the Indian and the US Navies at Visakhapatnam. A total of sixteen

ships, two submarines and ninety five aircraft participated in this exercise.

India and the US Naval Cooperation in counter-piracy operations continued during the year. The Indian Navy deployed ships to escort both Indian and foreign flagged ships, took proactive actions to thwart piracy attempts, regularly exchanged information with the US Navy with a view to deterring piracy in the region.

Chief of Integrated Staff Committee (CISC) Lt. Gen. Sathish Dua led a defence delegation to attend the 16th India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting held at Hawaii from 28-29 November 2017.

## Defence Technology

The 6th India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting was held on 15 September 2017 at Washington, D.C. It was co-chaired by Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence from the Indian Side and by Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics from the US side. The DTTI Interagency Task Force (DIATF) meeting was earlier held in April 2017 at Washington DC.

The 19th India-U.S. Joint Technical Group (JTG 19) Meeting was held in Washington DC in November 2017.

The US delegation for Senior Technology Security Group (STSG) made a reciprocal visit to India in December 2017.

## Counter Terrorism

Bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism has seen considerable progress. During Prime Minister's visit to USA in June 2017, both sides reiterated their resolve to fight together against terrorism. They committed to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats from groups including Al-Qa'ida, ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, D-Company, and their affiliates.

A new bilateral consultation mechanism has been established on domestic and international terrorist designations listing proposals, which held its first meeting in New Delhi on 18-19 December 2017. During the year, the United States designated Syed Salahuddin, the leader of Hizbul Mujahideen, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist and Hizbul Mujahideen as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in June 2017 and August 2017 respectively.

The first meeting of the India-US Counterterrorism Designation Dialogue was held at New Delhi from 18-19 December 2017.

## Trade and Commerce

Expanding trade relations have been a hallmark of the overall India-US bilateral relations in the last two decades. The US is India's largest trading partner, goods and services combined. Bilateral trade in goods and services amounted to US\$ 114 billion and the two-way merchandise trade was US\$ 66.7 billion in 2016. During the first ten months of 2017, the bilateral trade stood at US\$ 62.26 billion with the balance of trade in favour of India at US\$ 19.72 billion.

The 11th Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting was held in Washington DC on 26 October 2017. Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Shri Suresh Prabhu held discussions with United States Trade Representative Ambassador Robert Lighthizer on a wide range of issues of mutual concern including market access in agriculture, non-agricultural goods and services, movement of skilled professionals and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

The U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue was also held on 27 October 2017 during which CIM Shri Suresh Prabhu and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mr. Wilbur Ross reviewed the U.S.-India commercial relationship. During the meeting, cooperation in the areas of standards, ease of doing business and travel and tourism were discussed. In standards, positive outcomes from holding best practices, exchanges between the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), and India's National Physical Laboratory (NPL) was noted.

India and the US successfully co-hosted the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in Hyderabad on 28-30 November 2017. The theme of GES 2017 was "Women First, Prosperity for All".

During the year, India commenced purchase of US-origin oil. The first shipment of crude oil cargo of 1.6 million barrels bought by IOC was received on 2 October 2017 at Paradip Port.

## Science and Technology

Bilateral cooperation in the area of Science and Technology continued to expand during the year:

- Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) continued to play a prominent role in bilateral S&T cooperation. In the current year, 13 bilateral virtual centres and 18 bilateral workshops were supported. Under its Startup company support programme, IUSSTF supported 27 Startup companies during the

year and identified 9 more companies for support.

- The inaugural India-US Ocean Dialogue was held from 1-2 November 2017 at the National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO) in Goa.
- The sixth meeting of the India-USA Civil Space Joint Working Group was held at Washington DC from 11-12 October 2017.
- A delegation from BARC, Department of Atomic Energy visited Fermilab in December 2017 to attend the Indian Institution Fermilab Collaboration and participated in the Department of Energy (DOE) Independent Project Review for PIP-II.
- Director of CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) visited USA in June 2017 for the inauguration of a plant of Benefuel. A catalyst for Biodiesel was developed by CSIR-NCL and transferred to Benefuel, which has set up a commercial Biodiesel facility.
- National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences attended Deep Ocean Observing Strategy Steering Committee meeting in September 2017 in Washington, DC.

## Health and AYUSH:

- The 2nd India-US Health Dialogue was held on 26-27 September 2017 at New Delhi.
- Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), participated at the 2nd Meeting of the Vaccine Advisory Committee of Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP) and 29th Meeting of JWG of Indo-US VAP from 11-12 April 2017. Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP) is to develop affordable vaccines for dengue, Chikungunya and tuberculosis, strengthening of programme on the adjuvant development, anti-microbial resistance and policy discussions.
- Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) participated in the 6th Meeting of Joint Steering Committee for Indo-US Diabetes Research Collaboration held at National Institute of Health (NIH), Bethesda in April 2017.
- The 2nd Meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Environment and Occupational Health was held at the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta in April 2017.

- A delegation from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) attended the 2017 Grand Challenges Meeting and Workshop on Open Science in Washington, DC, USA in October 2017.
- A delegation from Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) addressed the Annual Meeting of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Convention of the United States (HPCUS) held at Virginia, on 2 April 2017, on the capabilities and progress of the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India, collection of data of Homoeopathic drug proving and drug validation.

## Agreements/MoUs:

The following agreements/MoUs were signed during the year:

- An agreement between Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America Regarding Consular Privileges and Immunities was signed in January 2017.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited, India for cooperation in the field of fossil energy technologies was signed in June 2017.
- An Agreement between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for availing Deep Space Network (Communication) and Navigation Support for India's Chandrayaan-2 Mission was signed in November 2017.
- An Implementing Agreement on technical cooperation for the study of dynamical short range, extended range and seasonal prediction of Indian summer monsoon rainfall between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Government of the United States of America and Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of the Republic of India was signed in June 2017.

## People-to-People Contacts

People-to-People contacts have played a critical role in the development of India-US relations. These engagements

continue to prosper during the year. The Indian Diaspora in the US is 3.5 million strong and growing. The educational ties between the two countries are dynamic, with about 186,000 Indian students pursuing advanced degrees in the US during the academic year 2016-17.

During the year, India joined the International Expedited Traveler Initiative (Global Entry programme) of the United States which will facilitate travel for Indian travelers to the US.

The Sixth India-US Consular Dialogue was held on 27 September 2017 at Washington DC.

Beginning from July 2017, Air India has started non-stop flights from New Delhi to Washington DC, connecting the capitals of India and the USA.

Extensive cultural exchanges continued to advance the India-U.S. bilateral relations during the year. The appreciation for Indian cultural heritage was evident in the enthusiastic participation of over 2000 people at the 3rd International Day of Yoga organized by Indian Embassy in Washington DC in collaboration with fourteen partner organisations, on 17 June 2017 at Sylvan Theatre on the National Mall at Washington DC.

A musical tribute to the victims of 9/11 attacks, featuring the renowned violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam was held at the Gaston Hall, Georgetown University on 11 September 2017.

A celebration on the occasion of 350th Birth Anniversary Guru Gobind Singh was held at the Reagan Centre, Washington DC. The programme consisted of a Conference on the Guru and the Sikh history by renowned scholars and performance of devotional Sikh music.

As a part of "India@70" celebrations, Kathakali Performance by Prabal Gupta and his talented troupe was organised on 20 November 2017 at Gaston Hall, Georgetown University.

The Indian Embassy in Washington DC continued its cultural activities during the year under the six series: (i) "Performing India Series", (ii) "Reading India Series", (iii) "Beholding India Series", (iv) "Understanding India Series", (v) "Young India Series", and (vi) "Celebrating India Series".

The **National Security Strategy (NSS)** announced by President Trump in December 2017 contained positive references on India, both in bilateral and global context. It welcomed emergence of India as a leading global power and stronger strategic and defence partner of the US and prioritizes deepening of strategic partnership with India and support its leadership role in Indian Ocean security and throughout the broader region.

## Forthcoming interactions/visits [January-March 2018]

US Deputy National Security Advisor Nadia Schadlow, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary US State Department Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells, US Pacific Command (PACOM) Commander Admiral Harry Harris and other senior government officials from the US participated in the Raisina Dialogue in January 2018 and also had other official engagements during their visit.

US Secretary of Energy Ricky Perry is scheduled to visit India during the 3rd week of February 2018 for the India-US Energy Dialogue meeting.

The Sixth India-US Cyber Dialogue is being scheduled to be held 20-21 February 2018.

The next India-US DTTI Interagency Task Force (DIATF) meeting is likely to be held at India in March 2018.

Chief of Staff, the US Air Force is likely to visit India in end January 2018.

Indo-US Special Forces exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2018 will be held at JBLM, Seattle, Washington from 14-28 January 2018.

22nd Indo-US Army Executive Steering Group (ESG) will be held in New Delhi from 7-8 February 2018.

## Latin America

### Argentina

Relations between India and Argentina are multi-faceted and high level meetings have further strengthened our ties in various areas of bilateral interest.



*Prime Minister in a bilateral meeting with the President of Argentina, Mr. Mauricio Macri, on the sidelines of the 12th G20 Summit, in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July 2017.*

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the Argentinian President Mr. Mauricio Macri on the sidelines of the G20 Summit Meeting in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July 2017. During the meeting, the leaders discussed cooperation in various fields including food technology, agriculture and trade and commerce as well as bilateral investments. Prime Minister invited Argentina to join the International Solar Alliance and

participate in the Make in India programme. Both sides agreed to further deepen relations.

Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers (Independent Charge), accompanied by a 12-member delegation visited Buenos Aires from 16-17 April 2017 and held meetings with the Argentine Vice Minister of Commerce and representatives from the Latin American



Petrochemical and Chemical Association (APLA) and the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). An Agreement of co-operation was signed between the Central Institute of Plastics, Engineering and Technology (CIPET), India and the School of Engineering, University of Buenos Aires (UBA).

EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj met Mr. Jorge Faurie, Foreign

Minister of Argentina on 21 September 2017, on the sidelines of the 72nd session of UN General Assembly in New York. During the meeting, the leaders discussed about the upcoming WTO Conference, bilateral trade and commerce and International Solar Alliance among other things. They also discussed the expansion of PTA between India and Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR).



*External Affairs Minister meets Jorge Faurie, Argentine Foreign Minister on the sidelines of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly on 21 September 2017.*

A five-member Indian delegation led by Secretary Telecom Ms. Aruna Sundararajan participated in World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in Buenos Aires from 9-13 October 2017.

India also participated in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary and working group meetings held in Buenos Aires from 30 October- 3 November 2017.

Two Ministerial delegations led by Cabinet Minister for Women and Child Development Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi

and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, participated in the IV Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour which was held in Buenos Aires from 14-16 November 2017.

Argentine agri-business delegation led by Secretary of Agro-Industries Ms. Marisa Birchar and Joint Secretary of Agro-Industries Mr. Jesus Silveyra visited India in September 2017 and held business meetings with Indian businessman. They also participated in the Global Conference “Globoil”. An MoU

between the Government of Maharashtra and Government of Argentina for co-operation in the agricultural sector was signed during the visit.

A delegation from the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), organised the first ever Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) in Argentina from 23-24 October 2017.

A Festival of India was held in the province of Salta and the municipality of Almirante Brown in of August 2017.

Principal Economic Adviser Shri Sanjeev Sanyal led a two member delegation to participate in the fourth and final G20 Framework Working Group Meeting under the German Presidency in Buenos Aires from 29 May-1 June 2017 to discuss the current state of the World Economy, G20 inclusive growth agenda and assessment of growth strategies.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister for Commerce and Industry led a delegation for the 11th Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Buenos Aires from 10-13 December 2017. During the visits, he met President of Panama, Mr. Juan Carlos Varela. He also met Ministers of Trade & Industry, and Public Works, a business meeting with the President of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Panama (CCIAP), and also had a Luncheon meeting with CEOs of financial, banking and logistics companies which provided an excellent opportunity for a comprehensive discussion on wide-ranging economic and commercial issues. Cooperation on multilateral issues in forums, such as WTO, was also discussed.

A 4-member Parliamentary delegation comprising of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Shri Kirit Somaiya, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Shri Swapan Das Gupta, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Shri Abhijit Kumar, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat participated in the Parliamentary Conference on WTO jointly organized by the Inter- Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament, held in Buenos Aires from 9-10 December 2017.

The film "Thinking of Him" on Rabindranath Tagore and his encounter with Ms. Victoria Ocampo was screened as the closing film at the International Film Festival of India in Goa in November 2017.

## Bolivia

The project of solar lighting of the Tiwanaku Archaeological Complex- a very important historical and spiritual landmark of Bolivia- was completed under Aid to Latin America by India. The Board of Directors of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), in their second meeting of 2017, approved an initiative amounting to approximately US\$ 2,73,000 for enhancing food security in Bolivia through the acquisition of machinery and drilling equipment to be managed by livestock associations affected by floods and droughts in the regions of Beni and Pando, in Bolivia.

International Day of Yoga 2017 was celebrated in La Paz, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and at the iconic lake Titicaca. Embassy of India in Lima, Peru signed a framework agreement for inter-institutional cooperation in July 2017 for Academic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation with the Autonomous University "Gabriel Rene Moreno", Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

## Brazil

The strategic partnership with Brazil continued to strengthen in 2017 with regular meetings at leadership level. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Michel Temer on the sidelines of the Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Summit in China in September 2017. Key issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed thereby opening up opportunities on both sides. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj also met her counterpart Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2017. The then Minister of Defence Shri Arun Jaitley met his counterpart Mr. Raul Jungmann on 26 April 2017 on the sidelines of the VI Moscow Conference on International Security. Foreign Ministers of IBSA, G4 and BRICS met on 21 September 2017 on the sidelines of UNGA, strengthening multilateral cooperation at these important forums. Brazil hosted G4 meeting on 23-24 November 2017 and was represented by a delegation led by our PR in New York.



*Prime Minister meets Michel Temer, President of Brazil in Xiamen, China on the sidelines of the 9th BRICS Summit on 4 September 2017.*

India-Brazil bilateral trade showed a significant growth of 35.33% in the January - October period at US\$ 6.07 billion as compared to US\$ 4.49 billion last year. In the rankings of the largest trading partners of Brazil, India rose to 11th position (from 13th position during the same period last year).

A number of important Ministerial and official delegations visited Brazil. Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya led a 12-member delegation including representatives from Central government, State governments, CIPET, top Public Sector Units (PSU) in Oil and energy sector and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to Brazil from 17-22 April 2017, which aimed to increase bilateral collaboration and promotion of investments and trade in chemicals and petrochemical sector; promotion of the Petrochemical Park policy of Government of India, Make in India initiative and India Chem 2018. During the visit, Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) signed a letter of intent with University of State of São Paulo (UNESP) towards

building collaborations between them in the field of academics and advance research in Polymers.

A State level delegation led by Government of Tamil Nadu Minister (Rural Industries) Shri P. Benjamin visited Brazil to attend the 29th International Electric, Electronic Power and Automation Industry Trade Show (FIEE) held in São Paulo from 25-28 July 2017. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) along with 37 Indian companies, also participated in the exhibition.

A high level delegation led by Shri Y.B. Ramakrishna, Chairman of the Working Group on BioFuels of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas participated in the Biofuture Summit 2017, the first major conference of the Biofuture Platform, held in São Paulo, Brazil on 24-25 October 2017. The objective of the summit was the development of a modern, sustainable and low-carbon bio-economy.

As part of the study tour, a group of training officers from National Defence College (NDC) visited Brazil 27 May - 3 June 2017 and met with the Brazilian defence authorities and

visited defence establishments. Separately, 21 officers of the Staff and Course members of the 30th Naval Higher Command Course at the Naval War College led by Rear Admiral Mr. Monty Khanna visited Brazil for a Training Course from 13-18 November 2017.

From the Brazilian side, Mr. João Carlos Gomes, Secretary of Science, Technology and Higher Education, State Government of Parana, Mr. Júlio Felix, CEO of Tecpar and Mr. Adalberto Netto, Director of the Paraná Development Agency, participated in the iPHEX 2017 fair, an International Exhibition for Pharma and Healthcare, organized by Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexil) at Hyderabad from 27-29 April 2017.

An official delegation from Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Brazil, led by Deputy Chief of International Affairs at Brazilian Ministry of Defence Brig. Ricardo Reis Tavares, visited India from 27-29 November 2017 for the 5th Joint Defence Committee Meeting.

A number of trade delegations from India including Plastic Export Promotion Council (PEPC); Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC); Pharmexil, Agriculture Development Trust (ADT) visited Brazil and participated in the major Brazilian exhibitions/fairs. Around 60 business delegates from Indian healthcare companies participated in the HOSPITALAR.

There have been key developments in investments in India and Brazil. Royal Enfield, one of the most popular brands in two-wheeler segment in India, opened a sales office in São Paulo in April 2017 with intention to establish a plant in Manaus area of Brazil.

An important development was winning of bid by an India-based power transmission company Sterlite Power Grid Ventures Ltd. in the biggest transmission line auction ever by Brazilian energy regulator ANEEL which sold thirty-one transmission line concessions on 24 April 2017 with a total amount of US\$ 4.04 billion (BRL 12.7 billion) in investments. The Indian company won two set of lines, one in the southern state Rio Grande do Sul and another one in the northern state of Pernambuco with offer of BRL 34.5 million and BRL 24.6 million respectively.

On 25 April 2017, WEG S.A. of Brazil announced its entry into the Indian wind market with plans to manufacture wind turbines at the Hosur plant in India of 2.1 megawatts (MW).

Sterlite Power Grid Ventures Limited (Vedanta Group) won the largest batch of the auction. 1800km transmission project of US\$ 800 million accounted for a third of the total value of the auction. Sterlite consolidates its presence in Brazil reaching a total of US\$ 1 billion of investments, the largest ever made by an Indian company in Latin America.

As part of the state facilitation, a cultural evening showcasing elements of cuisine, culture, architecture and tourism of the Indian state of Goa, Punjab and Bihar were organized in Brazil in November/December 2017.

Music concerts by Dr. L. Subramaniam in Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro during first week of February, 2018.

Bilateral seminar marking 70 years of diplomatic relations – with participation of Fundacao Alexandre de Gusmao (FUNAG) of Brazil and Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) – 26-27 March 2018.

ICWA-LAC Conference to be organized at the Embassy on 28 March 2018.

Two events are being organized by CGI Sao Paulo in partnership with the Tea Board of India and Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts respectively in Feb/March 2018.

A 8-member ICCR-sponsored Contemporary Dance Group and Drummers from Manipur led by Mr. Astad Deboo will be visiting Sao Paulo from 10-13 January 2018.

## Colombia

India's friendly relations with Colombia were marked by increased interactions and exchange of visits. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Ms. Maria Angela Holguin, along with Ms. Maria Lorena Gutierrez, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia and other delegates visited India during 6-9 November 2017. The delegation held meetings with External Affairs Minister and Minister of Commerce and Industry. The entire gamut of bilateral relations was reviewed during the meetings. Colombian Foreign Minister delivered a lecture titled "Colombia: A second opportunity on earth" at the Indian Council of World Affairs. Earlier, MoS Shri M.J. Akbar met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia on the sidelines of UNGA in New York in September 2017. The fourth round of Foreign Office Consultation between India and Colombia was held in New Delhi in March 2017.



*External Affairs Minister meets Maria Angela Holguín Cuellar,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia in New Delhi on 8 November 2017.*

Commerce Secretary accompanied by a business delegation visited Colombia in May 2017 for third meeting of India-Colombia Joint Business Development Committee (JBDC). The first meeting of India-Colombia Joint Working Group on Investment and Trade was also held during the visit and a business seminar was organized by FICCI and ProColombia.

A delegation from National Defence College (NDC) visited Colombia 21-27 May 2017 and met with Colombian defence authorities and visited defence establishments. A Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology between India and Colombia was signed on 28 March 2017 in Bogota.

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 2017 at various cities across Colombia. The Paryatan Parv to promote tourism to India was organized on 29 October 2017. The event was visited by more than 2100 persons. A six-member Ranganiketan Manipuri dance group visited Colombia and performed in Bogota on 31 March 2017 and Bucaramanga on 1 April 2017. An India Food festival was organized as part of India@70 celebrations at Popayan on 14-17 September 2017. The festival also had other cultural components including an ICCR sponsored Bhangra group. Three journalists from Colombia participated in a familiarization tour arranged by External Publicity & Public Diplomacy (XPD) Division for Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region during 1-8 October 2017.

## Peru

In March 2017, Peru liberalized the visa regime for Indian nationals exempting them from tourist or business visa requirement if they hold long term visas or are permanent residents of the United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia or any of the Schengen member countries. The First India-Peru Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in Lima on 21 June 2017, led by Secretary (East) Ms. Preeti Saran on the Indian side and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nestor Popolizio on the Peruvian side. India contributed US\$ 150,000 towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the areas in Northern Peru affected by heavy rains and floods. During the JCM Peruvian side signed the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance and an agreement between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India and the Peruvian National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) for access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library of the CSIR by INDECOPI was also signed. A project to provide teaching aids and equipment to Rabindranath Tagore School in Pueblo Libre, Lima, approved under Aid to Latin America, is under implementation.

The first round of talks for a Trade Agreement between India

and Peru were held in New Delhi from 8-11 August 2017. A delegation from Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare visited Peru for a meeting with Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria (SENASA) (National Service for Agricultural Health) in August 2017. A Council for Leather Exports (CLE) delegation of 16 Indian companies participated at the EXPODETALLES Fair in Lima from 2-4 August 2017. For the fifth consecutive year, a delegation from Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) visited Lima, but this time to participate at the fair TECNOSALUD 2017 on 6-8 September 2017. At the event, twenty-seven Indian companies of the pharmaceutical sector held Buyer-Seller Meetings (BSMs). Three Indian companies participated independently in Expotextil Peru – the popular International Suppliers Fair of Textiles and Apparel held in Lima from 18-21 October 2017.

International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2017 was celebrated in a number of cities in Peru, including the historical citadel of Machu Picchu, Lima, Trujillo, Piura, Cusco and Tacna with a total participation of over 11,000 people. In a milestone achievement, twenty-four students enrolled at the Cultural Centre at Embassy of India, Peru in the Yoga Pravesh Teachers Training Programme, appeared in the online theory examination conducted bilingually in Spanish and English by Quality Council of India under Yoga Self Certification Scheme (Level-1, Yoga Instructor) of Ministry of AYUSH on 11 November 2017 and passed in the first attempt.

## Uruguay

India-Uruguay relations strengthened with the visit of Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister for Women and Child Development as a special Envoy of the Government of India. She called on the Vice President of Uruguay, Ms. Lucia Topolansky on 16 November 2017. The discussions focused on issues of bilateral interest.

Mr. Mohammed Shaukat, Advisor, (NCD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India participated in the WHO Conference on Non Communicable Diseases (NCD), which was held in Montevideo, Uruguay from 18-20 October 2017.

## Venezuela

Venezuela is an oil and resource-rich country in terms of its reserves of oil, gas, minerals, gold and diamonds. Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves, estimated at around 297

billion barrels and is the sixth country in the world in terms of natural gas reserves and first in Latin America (196 trillion cubic feet). The estimates suggest that Venezuela's Orinoco Belt contains huge reserves of proven and unproven deposits of heavy and extra-heavy crude oil of 900–1,400 billion barrels. However, the main source of foreign exchange, which is the energy sector, is beset with problems due to sharp fall in oil prices since 2014 and as a result its economy is facing severe downturn.

The key focus areas of Venezuelan foreign policy are: regional economic and social integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, creation of a multi-polar world, democratization of UN and other multilateral institutions, and expansion of relations with other major and emerging powers such as the BRICS powers. Venezuela hosted the NAM Summit in Margarita Island during 17-18 September 2016 and took the NAM chair for next 3 years.

## Bilateral

India and Venezuela have been maintaining cordial relations. The 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations was celebrated in 2009. Resident Embassies have been in Caracas and New Delhi for over four decades and the two countries cooperate in multilateral forums. There is a similarity of views on major international, political and economic issues.

Venezuela has emerged as India's 4th largest supplier of crude oil. India imported oil worth US\$ 11729.89 million in 2014-15, while the figure decreased to US\$ 5512.06 million in 2016-17. Bilateral trade touched US\$ 11987.96 million in 2014-15, before falling to US\$ 5574.28 million in 2016-17 on account of drop in oil prices. There has been significant increase in the footprints of Indian pharmaceutical companies in Venezuelan market due to increased import of pharmaceuticals from India but the economic downturn in Venezuela impacted this sector also. Two Joint Commission Meetings have taken place in 2005 and 2013. A number of MOUs have been signed during these interactions. There is a growing interest in deepening ties in other potential areas of mutual interest such as industry, auto parts, IT & telecommunications, science & technology, agriculture, dairy and animal husbandry.

## Recent high-level interactions

In view of the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma, two GoI

special flights evacuated around 170 stranded Indians and PIOs from Sint Maarten to Curacao (both territories of concurrent accreditation) on 12 September 2017.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza signed the International Solar Agreement on 6 November 2017.

There has been exchange of visits from both sides. An OVL delegation visited Venezuela in November. Ms. Andrea Cordova, Vice Minister for Digital Media in the Ministry of Communication and Information represented Venezuela in the Global Conference for Cyber Security held in New Delhi from 23-24 November 2017. A four-member Venezuelan delegation led by Major General Pedro Jesus Serrano Duque, Director General (Health) of the National Bolivarian Armed Forces attended the 42nd World Conference of the International Committee of Military Medicines at New Delhi from 19-24 November 2017.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) Founding Conference is to take place in India in March 2018. Venezuela has signed the Agreement. If invited, a high-level delegation from Venezuela may attend.

Shri Sidharth M. Bijlani, MP from Sint Maarten is participating in the 1st PIO Parliamentarian Conference being held in New Delhi on 9 January 2018.

## Culture & Education

There has been tremendous respect and following for Indian culture and spirituality in Venezuela notwithstanding the distance. In January 2018, Hindi Divas and Republic Day will be celebrated by the Embassy. A 11-member Bharatnatyam dance troupe, headed by Km.Kanak Sudhakar and sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, will be performing in Venezuela from 24-28 January 2018. A lecture on Champaran Satyagraha together with a quiz competition will be organized by the Embassy. The Embassy also proposes to arrange a lecture and launch a coffee-table book on the North-Eastern States of India. Holi will also be celebrated by the Embassy.

Government of India has allotted 30 ITEC seats to Venezuela for 2017-18. 24 ITEC alumni attended an event organized at the Embassy for getting feedback from them on the ITEC programme. Several alumni from the regions, too, participated.

Two exhibitions on Indian handicrafts, handloom and home decor items were organized in Tolon, one of the largest shopping malls in Caracas and also in the state of Trujillo.

Indian Embassy participated in the Venezuelan International Tourism Fair Fitven 2017 held at Margarita Island where India was the partner country.

## Central America

### Belize

In 2017, India's relations with Belize continued to deepen. Belize extended support to India's candidatures for International Organizations. A Visa Waiver Agreement for persons holding Diplomatic/ Official passports between the Governments of India and Belize was signed on 18 September 2017. India donated 39 computers to Orange Walk Institute for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Belize. A MoU between India and Belize to begin the construction of India-Belize College of Engineering was finalized.

As part of IYD 2017, Yoga performances were organized at 5 different locations in Belize. An 11-Member Kathak Dance troupe led by Hemanta Kalita sponsored by Ministry of Culture performed in Belize City and Corozal as part of the 70th anniversary celebration of India's Independence. The celebration in Belize City was graced by the presence of Governor General Sir Colville Young.

A Belizean diplomat attended training at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. Belize utilized 4 ITEC slots for the FY 2017-18. A TV journalist visited India to participate in a familiarization tour arranged by External Publicity & Public Diplomacy (XPD) Division, MEA for Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Belize for the Establishment of the India-Belize Centre of Engineering was signed on 20 December 2017 in Belize City.

### Chile

The bilateral relations between India and Chile deepened in the year. Chile signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement on 22 November 2017. Mr. Eduardo Frei, former President of Chile and currently Special Envoy to the Asia-Pacific region, led a business delegation to India in October 2017. Minister of External Affairs met with Foreign Minister of Chile on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2017 at New York.

India-Chile expanded Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

came into force on 16 May 2017. Business delegations from the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), Tea Board, and the Council for Leather Exports visited Chile from India.

A nano-satellite “Suchai-I” built by students of University of Chile was launched from Sriharikota in India on 23 June 2017.

The promotion of Indian culture received a boost this year, with classical dance groups from India (Shovana Narayan – Kathak; Mayadhar Raut group – Odissi; and Geeta Chandran – Bharatnatyam) performing in Chile after a hiatus of at least 7 years, the latter two as part of India@70 celebrations. For the first time the International Day of Yoga was marked in the Chilean Parliament, and again for the first time, India was represented officially in the annual Santiago a Mil International Festival in January by the Astad Deboo group sponsored by ICCR. The San Sebastian University instituted the “Gandhi Award for Community Lawyering”, with the first awardee being Ms. Elena Highton de Nolasco, Vice President of the Supreme Court of Argentina, in honour of her lifetime achievement in community law. For the second time, four tribal women from Chile without any formal education were sponsored under ITEC for a six month course on utilizing solar energy and rain water harvesting technology for the community.

Mr. Sidharth M. Bijlani, MP from Sint Maarten is participating in the 1st PIO Parliamentarian Conference being held in New Delhi on 9 January 2018.

A 11-member Bharatnatyam dance troupe, headed by Km.Kanak Sudhakar and sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, will be performing in Venezuela from 24-28 January 2018.

## Costa Rica

With a view to make the ITEC Programme more purposeful, efforts will be made to urge participation of ITEC Alumni for Costa Rica in the ITEC Day function to be held in Panama in March 2018.

## El Salvador

India and El Salvador have friendly relations. Bilateral trade registered at approximately US\$ 66 million during the period 2017. El Salvador took over the Pro-tempore Presidency of CELAC. A Quartet Ministerial Meeting of CELAC was held

on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 23 September 2017.

## Ecuador

A delegation led by Commerce Secretary visited Ecuador during 16-17 May 2017. The two sides had a comprehensive review of bilateral trade and investment relations. The first meeting of the Joint Economic and Trade Cooperation (JETCO) Committee was held in Quito and a Business seminar was also organized by FICCI and ProEcuador during the visit.

An India International Week as part of India@70 celebrations featuring Indian films, fashion event of traditional Indian dresses, exhibition of Indian handicrafts was organized on 22-25 November 2017 in Cuenca. The International Day of Yoga was celebrated at 4 locations in Ecuador and was well attended.

## Grenada

The relations between India and Grenada are cordial and friendly. Two infrastructure development projects namely Belle Vue Road (US\$ 2,91,723); and Union Community Complex (US\$ 6,10,074) were approved and 80% of the remaining balance amount released by the Government of India under the small project scheme.

## Guatemala

India-Guatemala enjoy close and friendly relations. On the multilateral arena, India received support from Guatemala for election of its candidatures to the International bodies. Bilateral trade has been steady and stood at US\$ 263 million. Capacity building is a major pillar of our relations As part of academic exchange programme, distinguished visitors from both side visited each others’ countries. The Guatemalan Minister of Culture & Sports Mr. Jose Luis Ches Urruela visited India from 19-27 November 2017, accompanying a twenty-five member Ballet troupe that took part in the ICCR sponsored Latin American Cultural Festival.

## Guyana

Bilateral relations between India and Guyana are warm and cordial with a high degree of understanding which continued to be on an even keel during the year. The interaction is structured through periodic Joint Commissions, Foreign Office Consultations, Cultural Exchange Programme and ITEC. Guyana supported India in all the multilateral fora elections.



The Third Vice President & Minister of Public Security Shri Khemraj Ramjattan was on a private visit to India on 7-14 November 2017 to attend the 18th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World in Lucknow. During the visit, the visiting Guyanese dignitary had pull-aside meetings with Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Law & Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. He was the State Guest of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Bilateral relations were also punctuated by India's continuous development assistance to Guyana and an additional Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 17.5 million was approved in April 2017 making the total value of the on-going projects US\$ 81.5 million (LoC) and US\$ 9 million grant.

The capacity building assistance of India continued with 17 Guyanese nationals benefitting under ITEC and five under Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarships. For the first time, 21 Indo-Guyanese have been sent to India under the Know India Programme for familiarization visit. The Indian Cultural Centre organized extensive outreach programmes in the countryside to popularize yoga, Indian dance and music.

Second Vice President and Foreign Minister of Guyana Carl B. Greenidge along with three Cabinet Ministers and their Foreign Secretary is scheduled to visit India on 29 January - 2 February 2018. He would also be signing the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance and deposit the Document of Ratification. It is expected that during the visit two MoUs / Agreements on Renewable Energy Cooperation and, Cultural Exchange Programme would be signed.

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, former President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana along with other 20 Parliamentarians will be participating in the first ever PIO Parliamentary Conference scheduled to be held at Delhi on 9 January 2018

## Honduras

The relations between India and Honduras have been steadily strengthened. Honduras extended support to India's candidatures to the International bodies. Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 157 million during this period. The scholarship scheme including capacity building is a major pillar of our relations. M/s Apollo International Limited, the Indian implementation agency, for the Jamastran Valley Irrigation Project which was sanctioned under the Line of Credit by Government of India, worth US\$ 22.51 million, started the implementation of the project during the year.

## Panama

The trade and bilateral relations between India and Panama enhanced with the visit of a delegation led by Minister of Commerce and Industry (CIM) Shri Suresh Prabhu along with a Federation of Indian Expert Organization (FIEO) business delegation to Panama from 31 October – 2 November 2017. He met the President of Panama, Mr. Juan Carlos Varela and Mr. Augusto Arosemena, Minister of Commerce & Industries and Mr. Ramon Arosemena, Minister of Public Works. He also held joint meetings with President of Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (CCIAP), President of National Council of Private Chamber (CONEP), and the representatives of the sectors of the economy. The discussions focused on enhancing the level of commercial relations between the two countries and the need to step up the exchange of high-level bilateral visits. The FIEO delegation represented pharmaceuticals, minerals, chemicals, textiles, agriculture, food products and packaging sector of the economy, and held B2B meetings with their Panamanian counterparts to identify business opportunities. An MoU was signed between the FIEO and the CCIAP. CIM Shri Suresh Prabhu met with the Indian Diaspora.

The Embassy celebrated the Constitution Day on 26 November 2017, and preamble to the Constitution of India read.

ICCR sponsored, five member Indian Jazz group, '4 on a Swing' will be visiting Panama from 15-20 January 2018, to participate in the Panama Jazz Festival, a major international music event in Panama during last fifteen years. The event has a strong social side and is supported by the National Cultural Institute of Panama (INAC), Panama Tourism Authority (ATP) and the Mayor of Panama City. Apart from performances and workshops organized by the organizers of the festival, the Indian group will also perform at "Hindostana Society of Panama" for the Indian Diaspora.

ITEC Day will be celebrated in March 2018. Mission will make efforts to involve ITEC Alumni not only from Panama City but also from other provinces.

EXPOCOMER, one of the largest annual commercial expositions in Central America, organized by the Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, will be held in March 2018, in Panama City. Over 600 companies from about 40 countries are likely to participate in the exposition. Indian companies are also expected to participate.

## Nicaragua

Efforts will also be made to urge participation of ITEC Alumni from Nicaragua, in the ITEC Day function to be held in Panama, in March 2018.

## Caribbean Countries

### Antigua and Barbuda

Bilateral relations between India and Antigua and Barbuda remained friendly, warm and cordial during the year. Indian developmental assistance to Antigua and Barbuda continued with training of its nationals in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program. India contributed US\$ 1.1 million to Antigua and Barbuda towards hurricane relief assistance which was a fulfillment of the commitment made by External Affairs Minister during the India-CARICOM (The Caribbean Community) Ministerial Meeting held on 19 September 2017 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York.

### Barbados

Traditionally close and cordial relations were further reinforced by the meeting of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj with Senator Ms. Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados on the sidelines of 3rd India-CARICOM meeting held in New York on 19 September 2017. Enhancement of people-to-people contacts, smoother visa regimes, IT exchanges, capacity building exercises and sectoral cooperation in agriculture, pharma sector and climate change were discussed. Barbados sought India's expertise and cooperation in developing these sectors.

CIM Shri Suresh Prabhu met Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development of Barbados Mr. Donville Inniss on 30 October 2017 in Havana. An MOU between Federation of Indian Export Organization (FIEO) and Barbados Chamber of Commerce was signed on trade cooperation. Barbados has supported India's successful candidacies in the elections to International bodies.

### Bahamas

India and the Bahamas continued to strengthen the bilateral relationship during 2017-18. Bilateral, trade, economic and commercial activities between the two countries are satisfactory. The bilateral trade has also continued its growth

and during 2016-2017 it reached US\$ 265 million.

During the period, The Bahamas hosted the Commonwealth Youth Sports event for which large number of Indians participated. The Bahamas also hosted a Commonwealth Law Minister's meeting in October 2017 for which Minister of Law and Justice & Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad led a delegation.

### Commonwealth of Dominica

Bilateral relations between India and Commonwealth of Dominica remained cordial and friendly during the year. In the aftermath of Category 5 level Hurricane "Maria" which hit the country on 18-19 September 2017, the GOI provided an immediate assistance of US\$ 1 lakh, and a relief assistance of US\$ 1 million to the Government of Dominica to associate itself in rehabilitation of the country, which was highly appreciated by the Government and people of the country.

### Cuba

Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM), Shri Suresh Prabhu paid an official visit to Cuba from 28-30 October 2017. He led a 24-member business delegation from Federation of Indian Exporters Organization (FIEO). This was the first visit of CIM to Cuba. During his visit CIM held discussions with First Vice-President, Vice-President & Minister of Economic Affairs and Planning, Minister of Foreign Trade & Investment, Minister of Industries, Minister of Energy & Mines, and President of Cuban Chamber of Commerce. FIEO signed an MOU with Chambers of Commerce of Cuba, Guyana and Barbados in six priority sectors – pharmaceuticals, tourism, renewable energy, sugar technology and infrastructure development.

A four-member Parliamentary delegation of Cuba visited India from 26-29 March 2017. The delegation was led by Ms. Maria Yolanda Ferrer Gomez, President of the International Relations Commission of the Cuban Parliament. Delegation held meetings with Chairperson, Committee on Empowerment of Women and Ms. Bijoya Chakravarty and the MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) on 27 & 28 March 2017 respectively.

Government of India approved two lines of credit amounting to US\$ 160.3 million for setting up a fifty-one Mega Watts (MW) Wind Energy Farm and the Power Cogeneration Projects in the year 2017-18.

Under the aid programme of the Ministry, sixty tractors and accessories worth over US\$ 6,50,000, medicines and medical equipment worth US\$ 1 million and an emergency aid of US\$ 1,50,000 in the aftermath of the powerful Hurricane Irma was provided to Cuba.

Embassy of India in collaboration with Cuban Ministry of External Relations organized a seminar on business opportunities between both countries.

Cuban Minister of Public Health, Mr. Roberto Morales Ojeda, visited India from 6-7 December 2017. He held discussions with Minister of Health and Family Welfare and called on the Ministers of Commerce & Industry and AYUSH. An MOU in the field of Health and Medicine was signed.

## Dominican Republic

Bilateral relations between India and Dominican Republic (DR) have been friendly and cordial and continued to widen and deepen in all spheres in the year 2017-18. Although from both sides there were no high level visits in the current year, interaction at the higher level at international fora continued.

India and Dominican Republic signed an MOU to promote cooperation in mutually beneficial areas like exchange of information on the structure and content on diplomats training matters and identification of experts in areas of mutual agreement between Foreign Service Institute of India and the Institute of Higher Education in Diplomatic and Consular Formation of DR on 3 October 2017 in Santo Domingo.

Embassy of India in collaboration with the DR Ministry of External Relations organized a seminar on business opportunities between both countries.

## Haiti

India's relations with Haiti have been friendly, though interaction between the two countries has been limited. India has established diplomatic relations with Haiti in 1996.

India has been participating in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for almost two decades to maintain peace in Haiti by contributing three Formed Police Units (FPUs) from Border Security Force

(BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Assam Rifles of about 500 police personnel. Following UNSC decision in April 2017 to replace MINUSTAH by the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) two Indian FPU's of CISF and Assam Rifles will continue as part of MINUJUSTH, whereas BSF has been withdrawn since August 2017.

India provided an emergency financial aid of US\$ 2,50,000 in the aftermath of the Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, in May 2017. India also contributed US\$ 1,00,000 each in the years 2016 and 2017 for the UN Cholera Fund.

A Chilean Parliamentary delegation led by the President of the Chambers of Deputies of Chile is scheduled to visit India in February, 2018. The delegation is likely to have wide ranging interactions including with Lok Sabha Speaker, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Minister of AYUSH and Minister of Women and Child Development.

## Jamaica

India and Jamaica continue to enjoy cordial and friendly relations. During the period, MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) paid an official visit to Jamaica on 29-30 April 2017. This visit was in follow to the visit by Senator and Special Envoy to India Aubyn Hill to India in November 2016. He had called on the Prime Minister of Jamaica Mr. Andrew Holness and held wide range of issues discussed. This was his second visit to Jamaica within the span of two years, which signify India's relations with Jamaica. The visit has further cemented the relations with Jamaica.

The Jamaican Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith paid a first ever official visit to India on 9-12 October 2017 and held discussions with her counterpart, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. Both Ministers had detailed discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interests. Ms. Smith met Ministers of Tourism and Health. The visit coincided with a delegation led by Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Amb. Ms. Marcia Gilbert Roberts to attend the 5th round of Foreign Officer Consultation (FOC) between India and Jamaica, which was held in New Delhi on 9 October 2017.



*External Affairs Minister meets Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica in New Delhi on 10 October 2017.*

During hurricanes Irma and Maria, which occurred in September 2017, many Indians were affected with the Hurricanes in British Virgin Islands. Our Mission in Kingston had evacuated about 20 Indians in British Virgin Island and moved them to India.

## **Mexico**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit at Hamburg on 8 July 2017. EAM Smt Sushma

Swaraj met with her counterpart Mexican Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr. Luis Videgaray Caso on the sidelines of the 72nd UNGA Session in New York. The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju visited Cancun during 22-26 May 2017 to attend the 5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, during which there was a bilateral meeting on the Cooperation in Disaster Management. At the invitation of Hon`ble Speaker Lok Sabha, the President of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, Maria Guadalupe Murguia Gutierrez led a parliamentary delegation to India during 7-11 August 2017.



*Prime Minister meeting the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, on the sidelines of the 12th G20 Summit, in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July 2017.*

Seventh Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and the 4th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) were held in Mexico City on 23 June 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (East) Ms. Preeti Saran while the Mexican side was led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Amb. Carlos de Icaza. During the Foreign Office Consultations, both sides reaffirmed the importance of continuing Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue through mutual visits, exchanged views on the situation in their respective regions and held deliberations on Mexico's support for India's membership to the different Export Control Regimes. Meetings on Cooperation in Trade & Commerce, Oil & Gas and Space Sector were also held during the 7th JCM.

During the year, Embassy of India in Mexico City facilitated visits by delegations from NASSCOM (twelve companies), Trade Promotion Council of India (fifty companies), Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (forty-five companies), CII (seven companies), Plastics Exports Promotion Council of India (twenty-four companies) and Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (twenty-four companies). In the FY 2017-18, Mahindra &

Mahindra and Spark Minda group invested in Mexico and a Mexican company Grupo Bimbo announced a joint venture agreement with Ready Roti India Private Limited ("Ready Roti") to invest in India.

As part of IYD 2017, Yoga performances were organized in seven different cities in Mexico: Cancun, Queretaro, Monterrey, San Miguel de Allende, Orizaba, Guadalajara and Mexico City. The 70th Anniversary of India's Independence was celebrated in Mexico City for which an 11-Member Kathak Dance troupe led by Hemanta Kalita visited many cities of Mexico. India was designated as the Guest of Honour Country at 2018 Cervantino International Festival. The Director General of Cervantino International Festival Marcela Diez visited India under ICCR's Distinguished Visitor's Programme. Two journalists from Mexico visited India at an invitation of External Publicity & Public Diplomacy (XPD) Division, MEA.

## Suriname

India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Suriname which have been reinforced by cultural and people to people

contact over a period of 143 years. Several high level Ministerial visits have been exchanged between the two countries.

The Vice President of Suriname Mr. Ashwin Adhin was the special guest at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, held in Bengaluru in January 2017. During his stay in India, Mr. Adhin held discussions with Prime Minister, Ministers of AYUSH and the Road Transport and Shipping. He also interacted with business entities to explore business opportunities and collaboration in the areas of Ayurveda, medicinal plants and contract farming.

MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) led the Indian delegation to hold the sixth Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) at Paramaribo, Suriname on 28 April 2017. Besides JCM he also called on the President, Vice President and Foreign Minister of Suriname. India extended an additional Line of Credit of US\$ 30 million to Suriname. At the JCM three MoUs, namely, Visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports; Work Plan of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture for 2017-21; and, cooperation in the field of Indian Standards were signed.

Finance Minister of Suriname Mr. Gillmore Hoefdraad was on a working visit to Mumbai on 19-21 September 2017. FM held discussions with representatives of various chambers of commerce and potential investors and briefed them about the business potential in Suriname in the areas of Oil & Gas, Mining, Gold, Solar Energy and Bauxite.

Suriname declared 16th of October as International Day of AYURVEDA. Suriname in collaboration with India organised a Congress on “Traditional system of Medicines’ in which an AYUSH expert from India was the key note speaker

On multilateral fora, Suriname continued to extend excellent support to Indian candidatures and initiatives.

## **St. Kitts and Nevis**

Bilateral relations between India and St. Kitts and Nevis remained cordial and friendly during the year. 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 celebrated in St Kitts & Nevis on 25 June 2017.

## **Trinidad & Tobago**

MoS for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) was on

an official visit to Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) from 25-27 April 2017. During the visit, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed with three Cabinet Ministers of Foreign & CARICOM Affairs, National Security and Trade & Industry.

## **St. Lucia**

India and St. Lucia continued to actively engage and consolidate cordial relations bilaterally and on multilateral fora. St. Lucia has supported India’s successful candidacies in the elections to International bodies.

During the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria to Dominica, NRIs/PIOs were evacuated to St. Lucia. The St. Lucian Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation extended full cooperation to the evacuees.

## **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and India enjoy close and cordial relations and interact actively in the multilateral international fora. St. Vincent and the Grenadines extended support to India candidatures to International bodies.

## **CARICOM**

The Third India-CARICOM (The Caribbean Community) Foreign Ministers meeting, to be co-chaired by the Minister of External Affairs, held on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 19 September 2017.

India-CARICOM relations continued to flourish during the year. The upgradation of Information Technology system at the CARICOM Secretariat has been completed with a financial assistance of ₹ 15 crores. This was handed over to the CARICOM Secretariat on 15 November 2017. As part of capacity building, 28 CARICOM personnel were trained by an expert team of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad at Georgetown in July 2017. A special Training programme for 25 young diplomats from CARICOM member states was conducted by the Foreign Service Institute from 13-24 November 2017 at Delhi.

## **CELAC**

India attaches high importance to our relations with CELAC (The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States). Our relations with CELAC, as a group, complement our existing bilateral relations with individual CELAC countries.

The Quartet Ministerial Meeting of CELC on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2017 further strengthened and portrayed a more firm relationship with CELAC. The adoption of the Joint Declaration for establishment of permanent mechanism of political dialogue and cooperation in September 2016 had set a roadmap for taking this association further.

India's trade with CELAC is below potential and up now agreed together to work towards enhancing this. There is enormous potential for both trade and two way investments to

grow that we need to identify and explore. EAM offered to partner with CELAC in e-governance, tele-education and telemedicine and invited participation in our ITEC Programme where 250 slots are allotted for CELAC countries.

## **Pacific Alliance**

India has an observer status in Pacific Alliance. Ambassador of India in Bogota, Colombia represented India in a meeting of Observer Countries of Pacific Alliance held in Cali, Colombia on 29 June 2017. The meeting was held as part of the Pacific Alliance Summit.



## United Nations and International Organizations and Legal and Treaties Division

### India in United Nations

#### 72nd session of the UN General Assembly

The 72nd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), on the theme 'Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent

Life for All on a Sustainable Planet' commenced in September 2017 at New York. Minister for External Affairs (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation during the High Level segment of the 72nd UNGA session from 17-25 September 2017. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar accompanied EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj from 21-25 September 2017.



*External Affairs Minister participates in CICA Ministerial Informal Meeting during 72nd UN General Assembly in New York 20 September 2017.*

EAM delivered India's national statement at the High Level Segment of 72nd UNGA Session. She also met her counterparts from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Chile, Indonesia, Oman, Iran, Arab League (Secretary General), Algeria, Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Latvia, Denmark, Belgium, Bahrain, Brazil, Norway, Mauritius, Mexico, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia on the sidelines of UNGA. During the

meeting, all aspects of bilateral relationship were reviewed. Besides, EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj participated in the G-4 Foreign Ministers Meeting, India-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Meeting, India-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Meeting, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers, Meeting



of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Ministerial Meeting, IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Foreign Ministers Meeting, South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Ministerial Meeting, India-US-Japan Trilateral Meeting, Leaders Summit on Environment Pact etc.

MoS Shri M.J. Akbar participated in the multilateral/regional meetings including Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM), Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), the 41st Annual Meeting of the G77 Foreign Ministers and 40th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of G-15 held on the margins of the 72nd UNGA. MoS also held bilateral discussions with his counterparts from Croatia, Colombia, Hungary, Estonia, UAE, Somalia, Andorra and Iraq.

A multi-party Parliamentary delegation that included thirteen Members of Parliament (Smt Santosh Ahlawat, Shri. Swapan Dasgupta, Smt Renuka Chowdhury, Shri Raghav Laxhanpal, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy, Shri K. Rammohan Naidu, Shri Bhartuhari Mahtab, Shri Anil Shirole, Shri K. Kamaraj, Shri Hari Bahsh Narayan Singh, Shri Suresh Kodikunnil, Shri T.K.S. Klangovan, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay) visited New York as part of India's non-official delegation to the 72nd Session of the UNGA from 12 October - 1 November 2017. During the visit, Parliamentarians attended relevant UN meetings/sessions in the General Assembly and its Committees on issues, including Security Council's working methods and reforms, economic and social matters, international law and sustainable development. The MPs also delivered statements on different occasions conveying India's

position on various global issues being discussed at the UN.

## Visit of President of the UN General Assembly

Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, President-elect for the 72nd session of UNGA, and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovak Republic, visited New Delhi from 27-29 August 2017. During the visit, he called on the Prime Minister. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj held delegation level talks with him while MoS Shri M.J. Akbar hosted the visiting dignitary over dinner. Various issues pertaining to India's core interests at the UN, including UNSC reforms, Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) and Comprehensive Convention on Counter Terrorism (CCIT) were discussed during these meetings.

## Reform of the UN Security Council

Efforts to move forward the process of UNSC reforms continued during the period through India's active engagement with reform oriented groupings like the G-4 and L 69. EAM, at the General Debate of 72nd UNGA Session on 23 September 2017, stressed that "Efforts at text-based negotiations on the reform and expansion of the Security Council were initiated in the last session and more than 160 nations had expressed support for this effort. If we are serious, then the least we can do is produce one text that can be the basis for negotiation. I hope that under your enlightened leadership, Mr. President, this will become a priority. If that happens it will be a significant achievement".



*External Affairs Minister attends the G4 (Brazil, Japan, India, Germany) Ministerial Meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on 20 September 2017.*

The G-4 Foreign Ministers (consisting of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan) held their annual meeting in New York on 20 September 2017 on the sidelines of the 72nd UNGA session to review progress of UNSC reform. In a joint press statement released at the end of the meeting, G-4 ministers reaffirmed the need for an early reform of the Council including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, improvement of working methods, Council's representativeness as well as enhanced role for developing countries and major contributors to the United Nations, in order to make the Council more legitimate, effective and representative. Recognizing that the number of the United Nations Member States has increased from 51 in 1945 to 193 today and that the current composition of the Council did not reflect the changed global realities, the Ministers stressed that the Council needed to reflect today's world in order to be able to tackle today's complex challenges. The Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to encourage launching text-based negotiations on UNSC reforms during the 72nd session of the General Assembly. The Ministers agreed to accelerate dialogues between the G4 and other like-minded countries and groups, in order to gain further momentum towards such negotiations.

### Visit of IGN Co-Chairs

The two Co-Chairs of Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on UN Security Council Reforms, Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of UAE to the UN and Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN are scheduled to visit New Delhi from 15-16 January 2018 on the invitation of GoI.

The Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiation (IGN) on Security Council Reform - the Permanent Representatives of UAE and Georgia visited India from 14-16 January 2018. During the visit, they called on External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar and had meetings with senior officials of the Ministry.

The Permanent Representatives (PRs) of 15 select countries, based in New York, visited India on a study tour from 3-10 February 2018. The delegation included PRs from Saint Kitts and Nevis, Cabo Verde, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Togo, Djibouti, Moldova, Saint Lucia, Nicaragua, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Tonga, Samoa, Micronesia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. During the visit, the Permanent Representatives

called on External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

### Terrorism

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj in her speech at UNGA on 23 September 2017, stated that terrorism was at the very top of problems for which the United Nations was searching for solutions. She pointed out that India has been the oldest victims of this terrible and even traumatic terrorism and added that when India began articulating about this menace, many of the world's big powers dismissed it as a law and order issue. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj noted that all countries must introspect and ask themselves whether their talk was anywhere close to action. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj requested the General Assembly to stop seeing the evil of terrorism with self-defeating and indeed meaningless nuance, and accept that terrorism was an existentialist danger to humankind.

India continued to push for greater priority to be given within the United Nations system to the global counter-terrorism effort. It was repeatedly highlighted that the international community needed to strengthen its legal framework that supported international counter-terrorism cooperation by reaching agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, ensure greater transparency and effectiveness of existing UN counter terrorism structures including the various Sanctions Committees set up by the Security Council, and to work towards greater institutional coherence within the United Nations to deal with counter-terrorism related issues in an integrated manner.

India also continued to work closely with the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee including the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and also with the Al-Qaida and Taliban Monitoring Team in order to ensure strict compliance by member states of the sanctions regime.

### India and Peacekeeping

India continued its active participation in UN peacekeeping operations and engagement with peacekeeping related issues at the UN. India maintained its position as the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 180,000 troops since inception. As of 31 October 2017, India is the third largest troop/police contributor (TCC) with 6715 personnel deployed in nine UN Peacekeeping Missions. Democratic Republic of Congo (2914), South Sudan (2,398), Lebanon (900), Haiti (280), and Golan Heights on Syria-Israel Border (210) are the leading

UN Peacekeeping missions with substantial Indian contributions.

In the deliberations at the UN, India continued to stress that the troop and police contributing countries should be fully involved in development and renewal of peacekeeping mandate by the UN Security Council. India remained engaged with the relevant offices at the United Nations towards seeking a positive implementation of the Peacekeeping review process recommendations. Significant progress was achieved in implementing the commitments announced by Prime Minister at Leaders' Summit in September 2015, New York. As a fulfilment of those commitments, India has registered all pledges made at the Summit with the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (UNPCRS). One Level II Plus Hospital has been deployed in United Nations Mission for South Sudan (UNMISS), catering to the medical requirements of people in South Sudan while one Engineering Company is in Rapid Deployment Level (RDL) stage. Other pledged capabilities are at Level-2 of PCRS. The Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK), New Delhi, in association with the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) USA, has successfully organised the 2nd UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP-II) at New Delhi from 17 July - 4 August 2017, with thirty-seven participants from eighteen countries.

## The Commonwealth

India has been making significant contribution to the Commonwealth, both in terms of finances and other assistance it provides, and in terms of participation in its various bodies. India is the largest member state of the Commonwealth, being home to nearly 60% of its total population. India is the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth budget besides providing the largest number of technical experts (after the UK) under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), the main funding window for assistance programs to Commonwealth members.

The 9th Commonwealth Youth Minister's meeting was held at Kampala, Uganda from 1-3 August 2017 in which Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel attended. The Commonwealth Law Minister's Meeting was held at Nassau, Bahamas from 16-19 October 2017 in which Minister for Law and Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad attended.

## Visit of Commonwealth Secretary General

On the invitation of EAM, Secretary General of Commonwealth Patricia Scotland, QC visited India from 13-15 December 2017. She held delegation level talks with EAM on 15 December 2017. Besides, she met Minister for Environment and Climate Change & Science and Technology; Minister for Women and Child Development; Minister for Electronics and IT & Law and Justice and Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports during the visit.

## Democracy Initiatives

India continued its support for the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) launched on 14 September 2005, jointly with the US. India is the second largest contributor to the UNDEF, having contributed an amount of US\$ 31,912,543 till November 2017. Community of Democracies (CoD) is another global intergovernmental coalition of States which India is a member of, which is aimed at bringing together governments, civil society and private sector for 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, including on the sidelines of the UNGA Sessions. The last meeting of the Governing Council was held in Washington D.C. on 15-17 September 2017 in which Indian Ambassador to Poland (where the CoD headquarters is located) attended.

## UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

India was among the 14 countries reviewed during the 28th Session (1-12 May 2017) of the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) under the peer review mechanism of the UNHRC. Indian delegation was led by Attorney General of India Shri Mukul Rohatgi. Additional Solicitor General of India and senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development, Rural Development, Minority Affairs, NITI Aayog and National Law University, Delhi were part of the delegation. The National Report of India included areas that were part of the recommendations accepted by us following the UPR-II in 2012. The Report also covered areas that India wished to share with member countries as part of the

peer review mechanism and in a spirit of cooperative engagement and collaboration on issues of human rights.

The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation visited India from 30 October - 10 November 2017.

## Elections

Dr. Neeru Chadha became the first Indian woman to be elected as a judge at ITLOS following her election by the State Parties to the UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea) at their 27th Meeting held on 14 June in New York. Dr. Chadha is only the second woman to be elected as an ITLOS judge.

Justice Dalveer Bhandari of India, a sitting judge of The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ), was re-elected as an ICJ Judge for a 9-year term in the elections held during November 2017. The ICJ elections are held simultaneously in the General Assembly and the Security Council. The elections continued over several rounds (held on 9, 13 and 20 November 2017) and became a direct contest between candidates from India and the UK in the final rounds of balloting. The process ended after the UK withdrew its candidate.

Shri Ajai Malhotra was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee in September 2017.

India was re-elected to the Executive Board of the UNESCO in elections held in Paris in November 2017 and to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at London in December 2017. In addition to the above, India was re-elected as a member of the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) for the term 2018-2022. India was also elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) for the term 2018-2022 and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for the term 2018-2021. India was re-elected as member of the Programme and Budget Committee and the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO. India's candidate Mr. Yedla Umasankar was elected to the Finance Committee of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), established under the UNCLOS in August.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J.P. Nadda, led the Indian delegation to the 70th World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva on 21-31 May 2017. During the

WHA 70, India organised two special thematic events. One was on United Nations Secretary General's High level Panel Report on Access to Medicines, which was co-organised with Morocco, Bolivia, Uganda, and Venezuela. India also sponsored an event commemorating the World No Tobacco Day on 30 May 2017, in which the Director General of WHO participated.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Director General of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) was appointed as the Deputy Director General (DDG) for Programmes of the WHO.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

The Joint United Nations Team on AIDS (Joint Team) reinforced its technical and financial support for the AIDS response at national, state and city levels in India during 2017. This included strengthening strategic evidence towards Fast-Track 2020 targets and 2030 SDGs through technical support for India's key populations size estimates, surveillance, HIV estimates, and strengthening information management across the HIV prevention to care cascade. India participated in Programme Coordination Board (PCB) meetings of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) focusing on the effective implementation of the new UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy 2016-2021.

## International Labour Organization (ILO)

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State for Labour and Employment, led the Indian delegation to the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), which was held in Geneva from 5-16 June 2017. Minister of Labour from the States of Andhra Pradesh and Assam along with Employer and Workers groups' representatives also attended the ILC. India participated in the deliberations of various technical committees including the Committee of Application of Standards, Decent work in Global Supply Chains and evaluation of the ILO Social Justice Declaration. India hosted a side-event on 13 June 2017 to mark its ratification of the two core ILO conventions on child labour, namely, the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). At this event, Instruments of Ratification were handed over by India to ILO. With ratification of these two ILO conventions, India has ratified six out of eight core ILO Conventions, with the other

four core ILO Conventions relating to abolition of forced labour, equal remuneration and no discrimination between men and women in employment and occupation.

India participated in the 329th, 330th and 331st Sessions of the Governing Body (GB) of ILO held in March, June and October-November 2017 respectively.

## International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

India participated in the inter-governmental process on both compliance and detention mechanisms of the IHL during the follow up meetings organized by Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the 32nd International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

India participated in the first Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), post adoption of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) at Cancun from 22-27 May 2017. The delegation was headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju.

## Migration

India participated in the working group on International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UN relations and IOM Strategy, 69th standing Committee Meeting, Consultations on the Biennial Programme Budget 2018-19.

India participated in the discussions at the UN to finalise a Global Compact on Migration (GCM), including in the Preparatory Meeting held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from 4-6 December 2017.

India continued to take part in the Colombo Process and other Regional Consultative Processes on Migration.

## High-Level Meeting on Human Trafficking

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs led the Indian delegation at the high-level meeting on appraisal of Global Plan of Action on Human Trafficking that was held on 28 September 2017 at the UNGA. The meeting adopted a political declaration.

## United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal (UNODC)

During 2017, India participated in major meetings of UNODC in Vienna, including inter alia 13th Paris Policy Consultative Group Meeting (1-2 February 2017), 60th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (13-17 March 2017), FATF Private Sector Consultative Forum (20-22 March 2017), Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group meeting to conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime (10-13 April 2017), 8th Session of the Implementation Review Group from (19-23 June 2017), UNODC Experts Meeting on Typologies (13-14 July 2017), Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption from (21-23 August 2017), 5th Informal thematic session on “Smuggling of migrants, Trafficking in Persons and Temporary forms of Slavery, including appropriate Identification, Protection and Assistance to Migrants and Trafficking Victims” (4-5 September 2017), and Fourth Session of the Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants from (11-13 September 2017).

A standing open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on Improving the Governance and Financial Situation of the United National Office on Drugs and Crime was held on 22 January 2018.

The 61st session of the Commission on Narcotics and Drugs was held from 12 - 16 March 2018 in Vienna.

The 3rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Meeting for the Purpose of Defining the Specific Procedures and Rules for the Functioning of the Review Mechanism for UNTOC and Protocols thereto was held on 21 – 23 March 2018.

## ECOSOC High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog, Prof. Arvind Panagariya, led the Indian delegation during the presentation of India's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development organized by ECOSOC during 10-19 July 2017 in New York under the theme ‘Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world’. Dr. Panagariya presented India's Report during the VNR on 19 June 2017. The Report

presented an overview of India's planned and ongoing initiatives for achieving the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, and 17.

The Indian delegation also included the Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and a representative from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. There was significant interest in the presentation of the VNR by India that included the screening of a special documentary. A side event on 'Transforming India: eradicating poverty, promoting prosperity' was also hosted by the Indian delegation.

### Other ECOSOC activities

India participated in meetings in various ECOSOC Commissions, including the NGO Committee Regular (30 January-8 February 2017) and the Resumed Sessions (22 May-31 May 2017) respectively; 55th Session of Commission on Social Development (CSoCD) from 1-10 February 2017; 50th Session on Commission on Population Development (CPD) from 3-7 April 2017; 16th Session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) was held from 25 April-5 May 2017; 10th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held from 13-15 June 2017; and the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing on 12 June 2017. India also participated in the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up held in New York on 22-25 May 2017.

Shri Rajat Bansal, Joint Secretary (FT&TR-II), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance was appointed as a member of the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters by the Secretary General for the period 2017-2021. Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, was appointed a member of the ECOSOC 24-Member Committee of Experts on Public Administration by the Secretary General for the period 2018-2021.

### UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

India accepted the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol under UNFCCC on 13 July 2017. The Instrument of Acceptance was deposited on 8 August 2017 in New York.

Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Dr. Harsha Vardhan led the Indian delegation to the 23rd

Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC at Bonn in November 2017.

### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences attended the 3rd Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi from 4-7 December 2017.

### Oceans and the Law of the Sea

India participated in the 27th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) held at UNHQ on 12-16 June 2017; 23rd Session of the International Seabed Authority held at Kingston, Jamaica from 7-18 August 2017; 18th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on "The effects of climate change on oceans", held on 15-19 May 2017; 8th Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects held from 6-8 September 2017.

India participated in the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom4) on the elements of a draft text on an internationally legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the UNCLOS, held on 10-21 July 2017 in New York. The meeting adopted an outcome by consensus.

### UN Oceans Conference

Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar led the Indian delegation at the first-ever High Level UN Oceans Conference held from 5-9 June 2017. The Oceans Conference adopted a 14-point Call for Action that reaffirms commitment to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. During his visit, MoS also launched the India-UN Development Partnership Fund on World Oceans Day (8 June 2017). The Fund will be implemented in association with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) of the UNDP. The first project under the Fund aims at implementing 'Climate Early Warning Systems' in seven Pacific Island countries.

## United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, then Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting visited Kenya from 7-11 May 2017 to participate in the 26th Session of the Governing Council (GC) of UN-HABITAT held in Nairobi. India was unanimously elected as the President of the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat for a period of two-years (2017-19). Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs led the Indian delegation to the 2-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly to discuss the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and UN Habitat on 5-6 September 2017.

## Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The 136th IPU Assembly held in Dhaka in April 2017 and the 137th Assembly was held in St. Petersburg in October 2017. Speaker Lok Sabha led the Indian delegation to the Assembly.

## International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Department of Telecommunications hosted the Fifth Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) from 23-24 November 2017 in New Delhi. Senior members of the ITU, including its Secretary General, participated in the Conference.

United Nations Commission on Science, Technology and Development (UN-CSTD)

India participated in the 20th session of UN Commission on Science, Technology and Development held in Geneva in May 2017. The session highlighted the many links between Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) actions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on food security and inclusive, sustainable innovation. It also reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

## UN Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)

India participated in the 17th General Conference of the UNIDO from 27 November – 1 December 2017.

## United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

India participated in the 201st session of the UNESCO Executive Board (EXB) held in Paris from 19 April - 5 May 2017.

The historic walled city of Ahmedabad was inscribed on the list of World Heritage site of UNESCO during the 41st session of the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow, Poland.

Director General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, visited India from 30 August - 2 September 2017. She met the Minister for Human Resources development and MOS for culture, and other senior officials.

The Indian delegation to the 202nd session of the Executive board held from 4-18 October was led by Dr. Karan Singh, India's representative to UNESCO. Ms. Audrey Azoulay, the French candidate, was elected as DG, UNESCO. The proposal to establish the Indian National Center for Ocean information Service (INCOIS) as Category 2 Institute of UNESCO and was passed by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO during its 29th session in Paris on 21-29 June 2017.

Minister of Human Resources Shri Prakash Javadekar led the Indian delegation in the 39th General Conference of UNESCO held from 30 October to 14 November 2017.

Kumbh Mela was inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity during the its 12th session of the ICH held at Jeju, South Korea from 4-9 December 2017.

## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

India participated in the 73rd Annual Commission Session of UNESCAP (15-19 May 2017), Ministerial Summit on Environment & Development (5-8 September 2017) and 2nd Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration (RECI) (21-24 November 2017). Dr. Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment led the Indian delegation to an Inter-Governmental Meeting on Midpoint Review of the Asian and

Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 held in Beijing, China from 27 November - 1 December 2017.

The Global SDG 7 conference was held on 21-23 February, 2018 in UNCC Bangkok, with the aim to prepare substantive input on review of SDG7 during the High-Level Political Forum in 2018. The deliberations were intended to facilitate exchange of lessons, insights and experiences to-date among member states and all stakeholders and consider challenges and opportunities for furthering progress towards 2030. OSD (SDG) NITI Aayog attended the meeting.

## **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Parshottam Rupala, led the Indian delegation to the 40th Session of FAO Conference from 3-5 July 2017.

India participated in the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) from 9-13 October 2017.

Mr. Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance participated in the 41st Session of the Governing Council of IFAD scheduled from 13-14 February 2018 at IFAD, Rome.

## **Other Important Meetings and Visits**

India participated in the 7th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) during 2-4 August 2017 and the 30th session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (GEGN) on 7 and 18 August 2017 and the 11th session of the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (CSGN) during 8-17 August 2017 in New York.

Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Dr. TCA Anant led the Indian delegation at the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission held on 16-20 July 2017.

India participated at the meeting of Legal Advisors of Foreign Ministries of the UN Member States during the International Law Week held from 24-25 October 2017.

The UNDP Administrator and Under Secretary General, Achim Steiner, visited India during December 2017. The Bureau of UN Women Executive Board, led by the Permanent Representative of UAE, visited India in April 2017.

The Permanent Representatives (PRs) of 13 select countries,

based in New York, visited India on a study tour in August 2017. The delegation included PRs from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste. The PRs called on the Minister of External Affairs during the visit.

## **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

Subsequent to the signing of the Memorandum of Obligations to obtain status of SCO membership in June 2016, India had acceded to thirty-four SCO agreements including the SCO Charter and Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism. On completion of all its obligations under the MOO, India was granted the status of full member at the June 2017 SCO Summit in Astana.

After entry into SCO as a full member in June 2017, India has been actively participating in various SCO dialogue mechanisms aimed at promoting cooperation in political, security, trade-economic and cultural cooperation. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh attended the ninth meeting of SCO Heads of Emergency Prevention and Relief Agencies in Kyrgyzstan in August 2017. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj attended the Extraordinary meeting of Council of SCO Foreign Ministers held in New York in September 2017. Deputy National Security Adviser Shri R.N. Ravi took part in the meeting of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure in Beijing in September 2017. Minister of State (Law and Justice Mr. P. Chaudhary) attended the meeting of SCO Ministers of Justice in Tashkent in October 2017. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu led the Indian delegation to the meeting of SCO Ministers of External Trade held in Moscow in November 2017. EAM represented India at the meeting of Council of SCO Heads of Government held in Sochi (Russia) between 30 November - 1 December 2017.

## **Legal and Treaties Division**

### **United Nations and International Law**

#### **Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly**

The Sixth Committee, being 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. The Legal and Treaties Division follows the work of the Sixth Committee.

During the main part of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) the subjects/topics considered by the Sixth Committee include - Rule of Law at the National and International Levels; Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and Experts on Mission; Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fiftieth session; United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law; Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its 69th session; Expulsion of Aliens; Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization; The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction; Effects of armed conflicts on treaties; Responsibility of international organizations; Measures to eliminate International Terrorism; Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; Programme planning; Administration of justice at the United Nations; Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

Terrorism and related issues remained the focus of discussions before the Sixth Committee as well as during the general debate. Besides strongly condemning terrorism, Member States stressed for combating every act of terrorism effectively. The UNGA adopted the draft resolution on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” urging the UN Member States to take effective measures to deal with the menace of terrorism including the early conclusion of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The General Assembly also adopted resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee on all other topics considered during the main part of 72nd Session.

The Sixth Committee also considered and debated the Report of the International Law Commission, which included the following topics - Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction; Provisional application of treaties; Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts; Protection of the atmosphere; Crimes against humanity; Peremptory norms of general international law (Jus Cogens); and Succession of States in respect of State responsibility.

India made statements on topics considered by the Sixth

Committee including, measures to eliminate international terrorism; rule of law at the national and international levels; criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on missions; the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction; and on Reports of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization; International Law Commission (ILC); UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). India also made statements on subjects concerning, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and oceans and the law of the sea, which were debated in the Plenary of the UNGA.

## International Law Week

The International Law Week was observed from 23-27 October 2017. During this period the meeting of Legal Advisors of Foreign Ministries of the UN Member States was held from 24-25 October 2017, this year coordinated by Sweden in collaboration with the UN office for Legal Affairs. Dr. V. D. Sharma, Joint Secretary and Legal Advisor of the MEA represented India in the meeting. In addition to the legal advisers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UN Member States, the Sixth Committee experts, international law academicians and the UN officials also participated in the meeting.

The Sixth Committee also considered the requests of nine entities/organizations for Observer Status before the UNGA, including that of Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism in the General Assembly. Out of total nine requests for Observer Status, decision on five was deferred and remaining four requests were granted including that of Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism in the General Assembly. India is a party to the Agreement on the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), which was signed on 24 November 2011. Currently there are nine EAG Member States in the said Group.

## Elections

- **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS):** On 14 June 2017, seven Members (Judges) of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea were elected at the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), at the United Nations Headquarters in

New York for a term of nine years commencing on 1 October 2017.

- It is pertinent to note that the Meeting elected Indian Candidate Dr. Neeru Chadha (first Indian woman to be appointed as a judge at the Tribunal) as a Judge of ITLOS for nine years term along with Mr. Oscar Cabello Sarubbi (Paraguay), Mr. Kriangsak Kittichaisaree (Thailand), Mr. Roman Kolodkin (Russian Federation), and Ms. Liesbeth Lijnzaad (The Netherlands). Judge Boualem Bouguetaia (Algeria-reelected) and Judge José Luís Jesus (Cabo Verde-reelected).
- **International Seabed Authority (ISA):** The International Seabed Authority which is an institution created under the UNCLOS, 1982, elected members for its Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) and the Financial Committee. Mr. Yedla Umasankar, Indian candidate, was elected to the Financial Committee of the ISA.
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ):** The General Assembly and the Security Council re-elected Indian candidate Justice Dalveer Bhandari as a judge of the International Court of Justice for nine years term. He is one of the 5 judges so elected for the ICJ this year.

## Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Law of the sea remained the major areas of focus during the year 2017. Issues relating to oceans and the law of the sea were discussed at various international forums. Following are the major developments:

- India participated in the High Level United Nations Conference (Oceans Conference) to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, held from 5-9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June. The conference affirmed the importance of the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development through its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017 entitled “Our Ocean, our future: Call for action”.
- India participated in the 27th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) held at UNHQ on 12 - 16 June 2017.

- India participated in the 23rd Session of the International Seabed Authority held at Kingston, Jamaica from 7-18 August 2017 in which extensions of the first set of exploration contracts, new applications for approval of plans of work for exploration and the development of consolidated draft regulations for exploitation of polymetallic nodules in the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, which had been presented by the Secretariat to the Legal and Technical Committee for its consideration were discussed.
- The fourth session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the UNCLOS was held from 10-21 July 2017. It concluded with the adoption of an outcome by consensus. The Outcome includes non-exclusive elements of a draft ILBI text that generated convergence among most delegations, a list of main issues on which there is a divergence of views, with the indication that both do not reflect consensus. It also includes a recommendation to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to take a decision, as soon as possible, on the convening of an intergovernmental conference (IGC);
- The other meetings relating to the Oceans and the Law of the Sea participated by the representatives of the Legal & Treaties Division at the UN HQ are: 18th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on “The effects of climate change on oceans”; 8th Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects; informal consultations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea resolution and informal consultations on Implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions on impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks.

## United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The meeting of the Working Group I (Micro, Small and

Medium-sized Enterprises) held on 1-9 May 2017 at New York, in its 28th Session continued to deliberate on the need to evolve a model law governing the MSMEs to facilitate their incorporation, governance, financing and winding up process.

The Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation/ Dispute Settlement) held on 5-9 February 2017 at New York, and from 2-6 October 2017 at Vienna, Austria, (66th & 67th Session respectively) continued its work on the topic of “enforcement of settlement agreements to identify relevant issues and develop possible solutions, including the possible preparation of a convention, model provisions or guidance texts, dealing with enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements resulting from conciliation.

Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce), at its 55th Session (24-28 April 2017) held in New York has initiated the preliminary discussions on the topics of identity management and trust services and Legal Aspects of Cloud Computing. The Working Group decided to take up the topic of ‘identity management and trust services’ first and after its completion, the topic ‘legal aspects of cloud computing’ was decided to be taken up for discussions later.

Working Group III (Investor State Dispute Settlement Reforms), at its 34th Session (27 November - 1 December 2017) at Vienna was attended by the representative of the Legal and Treaties Division.

The Working Group V (Insolvency Law) held on 10-19 May 2017 at New York, pursuant to the decision of the Commission at its forty-fourth session, the Working Group agreed to continue its work on cross-border insolvency of multinational enterprise groups by developing provisions on a number of issues, some of which would extend the existing provisions of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency and part three of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law and involve reference to the UNCITRAL Practice Guide on Cross-Border Insolvency Cooperation.

The 68th session of the Working Group II (Dispute Settlement) of the UNCITRAL was held on 5 – 9 February 2018.

The 30th session of the Working Group I (Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises) of the UNCITRAL was held on 12 - 16 March 2018.

## **Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)**

Legal & Treaties Division participated in the 56th Annual Session of AALCO held in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya from 1-5 May 2017. A total of 26 Member States took part in this Session. Nine States and four International Organizations were admitted as Observers to the Session.

During the course of the Session both organizational and substantive matters were discussed among Member States. The organizational matters included the Report of the Secretary General on the Work of AALCO, Budget for the year 2018, Report on the Work of AALCO’s Regional Arbitration Centers, Report of the Chairperson of Working Group on International Law in Cyberspace, and Report by the Chairman of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG). Substantive matters included the Status and Treatment of Refugees, Violent Extremism and Terrorism (Legal Aspects), International Law in Cyberspace, Selected Items on the Agenda of the International Law Commission, and the International Criminal Court - Recent Developments.

Vietnam was officially admitted to the Organization as the 47th Member State at the Session.

Member States acknowledged the significant role played by AALCO in promoting the rule of law in Asia and Africa, and also expressed their continued confidence in AALCO as an Organization that would continue to assist its Member States, echo the voices of the Asian and African States before the international community, especially at the legal bodies including the International Law Commission, and contribute to the overall development of international law.

## **Hague Conference on Private International Law (HcCH)**

Meeting of the “Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference” took place from 14-16 March 2017, 66 Member States and one Regional Economic Integration Organization (REIO) and observers from seven IGO/NGOs attended the Conference. The Council confirmed the Hague Conference’s pursuit of universality as a central tenet of the Organization’s operational strategies by recognizing the excellent services of Regional Offices in The Hague Conference’s efforts to pursue universality. The Council took note of the increasing interest in the work of the HCCH, shown by Caribbean States in the last years. It approved the extension of the Latin American

Regional Office's geographic reach to include the Caribbean region, as well as the change of name of the office to "Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean" (ROLAC)".

The Council directed the Permanent Bureau to prepare a strategic paper to assist Council to assess proposals by Members for the establishment and development of new regional offices of the Permanent Bureau. The paper would address criteria for establishing and developing new regional offices, including: funding, privileges and immunities, as well as approval and assessment processes by the Council.

Further, The Hague Conference undertook certain legal topics during the year 2017 including: a. **Judgments Project** (13-17 November 2017), wherein the Special Commission prepared a revised draft of the Convention on the Judgments Project which will be presented to the Council at its March 2018 meeting; b. **Parentage/Surrogacy Project** in which the Council agreed in principle on the feasibility of developing a binding multilateral instrument dealing with the recognition of foreign judicial decisions on legal parentage. Based on Group's recommendation, the Council has decided for further discussions with respect to the modalities of such a multilateral instrument and to hold more meeting of the Group for that purpose; c. **The Group on Authentication of Documents** reviewed the different practices of authenticating documents generated by supranational and intergovernmental organisations in their territory with a view to determine whether new rules are required in this field. The Group did not find the necessity to develop a protocol or rules. The Legal and Treaties Division followed the work of The Hague Conference.

## International Dispute Adjudication Involving India

1. **Enrica Lexie case (Italy and India)** : Italy had instituted arbitration proceedings by serving on India a "Notification under Article 287 and Annex VII, UNCLOS, in June 2015. The arbitration proceeding or at the stage of filing written pleadings. In terms of agreed filing schedule and procedure, on 30 September 2016, Italy filed its Memorial. In response, on 14 April 2017, India submitted its Counter-Memorial including a counter claim. On 11 August 2017, Italy submitted its Reply to India's Counter-Memorial. On 15 December 2017, India submitted Rejoinder, in response to the Reply of Italy. Italy may now submit on or before 16 February 2018 its reply to India's Rejoinder. This would complete the

process of filing written pleadings. Thereafter, oral hearing would take place at time depending on the availability of the members of the Arbitral Tribunals and their convenience, which tentatively has been agreed in October-November 2018.

2. **Kulbhushan Jadhav Case (India v. Pakistan)** On 8 May 2017, India filed in the Registry of the ICJ the Application instituting proceedings against Pakistan alleging violations of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963 "in the matter of the detention and trial of an Indian National, Mr. Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav", sentenced to death in Pakistan. In its Application, India requested: "(1) a relief by way of immediate suspension of the sentence of death awarded to the accused. (2) a relief by way of restitution in integrum by declaring that the sentence of the military court arrived at, in brazen defiance of the Vienna Convention provisions under Article 36 and in defiance of elementary human rights of an accused which are also to be given effect as mandated under Article 14 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and (3) restraining Pakistan from giving effect to the sentence awarded by the military court, and directing Pakistan to take steps to annul the decision of the military court. (4) if Pakistan is unable to annul the decision, then the ICJ to declare that the decision was illegal being violative of the international law and treaty rights and restrain Pakistan from acting in violation of the Vienna Convention and international law by giving effect to the sentence or the conviction in any manner, and directing it to release the convicted Indian National forthwith." In its Application, India sought to found the jurisdiction of the Court on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the ICJ and Article I of the Optional Protocol concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes, which accompanies the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to which both India and Pakistan are a Party.

At the same time, accompanying its Application, India submitted a Request for the indication of provisional measures, In that Request, India asked the Court to indicate: - "(a) that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan take all measures necessary to ensure that Mr. Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav is not executed; (b) that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan report to the Court the action it has taken in pursuance of sub-paragraph (a); and (c) that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan ensure that no action is taken that might prejudice the rights of the Republic of India or Mr. Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav with

respect to any decision the Court may render on the merits of the case.” The Request also urged the Court to treat this Request as a matter of the greatest urgency and pass an order immediately on provisional measures suo-motu without waiting for an oral hearing. The President was requested to exercise his power under the Rules of Court, pending the meeting of the Court, to direct the Parties to act in such a way as will enable any order the Court may make on the Request for provisional measures to have its appropriate effects.” The Registrar immediately communicated to the Government of Pakistan the application and the request for the indication of provisional measures, in accordance with the Rules of Court. The ICJ also notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the filing by India of the Application and of the Request.

The ICJ held Oral hearing on India’s requests for provisional measures on 15 May 2017. As a result of hearing presentations of both India and Pakistan, the ICJ having found merit in India’s arguments, granted the request for provisional measures and unanimously held that *“Pakistan shall take all measures at its disposal to ensure that Mr. Jadhav is not executed pending the final decision in these proceedings and shall inform the Court of all the measures taken in implementation of the present Order.”* The Court also decided that, “until it has given its final decision, it shall remain seized of the matters which form the subject-matter of this Order”, thereby effectively staying the execution of Mr. Jadhav.

Presently the case is undergoing the process of filing the written pleadings. India filed its Memorial on 13 September 2017. Pakistan has, in response filed the Counter Memorial on 13 December 2017. Further procedure will be decided by the President of ICJ in consultation with both the countries.

**3. Investment related Arbitration Cases:** The various Arbitral Tribunals constituted under the auspices of Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), dismissed the claimants request for interim measures in the cases of *Cairn Energy PLC v Republic of India* under the India – UK BIPA; *Astro All Asia Network Limited v Republic of India* under the India UK – BIPA; and *South Asia Entertainment Holdings Limited v Republic of India* under the India-Mauritius BIPA.

Arbitral Tribunals have also been constituted under the auspices of Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), in the dispute between *Nissan Motor Co Ltd v. Republic of India* dispute under the India-Japan CEPA; in the dispute between *Ras-AI-Khaimah Investment Authority v. Republic of India,*

dispute under the India-UAE BIPA. Also the process of constitution of arbitral tribunals are underway in the disputes between *Vodafone v Republic of India* under the India – UK BIPA, and *Carissa Investments LLC v Republic of India* under the India-Mauritius BIPA.

The oral hearing for the quantum phase of arbitration in the investment treaty arbitration initiated by the Mauritius based investors of *M/S Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.* against Government of India is also going on.

## Treaty Negotiations

- 1. Environment:** The representative of the Legal & Treaties Division also took part in the resumed session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) held in conjunction with the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies in Bonn, Germany from 8-18 May 2017. The Division was also represented at the fourth part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement held along with the 23rd session of the Conference of Parties (COP 23) in Bonn, from 7-15 November 2017. Some of legal aspects covered during these meetings among others included-Modalities and Procedures for the Effective Operation of the Committee to Facilitate Implementation and Promote Compliance; and further matters relating to implementing the Paris Agreement.
- 2. Investment:** The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the process of negotiations and examination of documents relating to Bilateral Investment Agreements with Iran, Switzerland, Belarus, European Union, Kyrgyzstan and Oman.
- 3. Gainful Occupation:** A number of Arrangements on Gainful Occupation/Employment of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts were discussed and are in the process of finalization/conclusion with Turkey, Italy and Sri Lanka.
- 4. Civil and Criminal Matters:** The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the negotiation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in criminal matters between India and Poland in Warsaw. It participated in various bilateral negotiations for concluding Extradition Treaties, Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Criminal Matters, and Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Notable among them are, Treaties with Belgium and Lithuania.

Legal & Treaties Division participated in drafting the Rules for Application of Chapter III provisions of the Extradition Act, 1962, which is under the process of Gazette Notification.

During the year 2017, the Legal & Treaties Division examined a number of extradition requests including some of the very sensitive cases including that of Vijay Malya and other requests relating to criminal and civil matters from domestic and foreign jurisdictions.

5. Outer Space: The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the 56th session of the Legal Sub-Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna between 27 March - 7 April 2017.

### Online Treaty Database

The Legal & Treaties Division is maintaining a dedicated web module on the MEA website under the link Indian Treaties Database and the Treaties/Agreements/MoUs and other important matters entered into by the Government of the Republic of India with Foreign countries are made available in the public domain (in this web link: <http://www.mea.gov.in/Treaty.htm>) for the period covering from 1950 till 2017. Legal & Treaties Division is continuously working on updating this database on regular basis. Currently the database contains close to 3000 treaties in it.

### 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, inter alia 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), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), 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; water resources; bio-diversity; solar alliance; Ozone depleting substances; hydrography, twinning/sister city agreements and customs cooperation agreements, etc.

### List of Treaties

India has signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries and International Organizations during the year 2017. A comprehensive list is placed at **Appendix-II**. The list of Instrument of Full Powers (close to 20) issued during the year 2017 is at **Appendix-III** and the list of Instruments of Ratification/Accession (15) issued during the year 2017 is at **Appendix-IV**. It can be seen that India has signed or concluded close to 300 multilateral and bilateral Treaties during 2017, which is higher in number than the preceding year (230 in 2016).

## Disarmament and International Security Affairs

In 2017-18, India continued to play an active role in various multilateral forums on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament as well as general and complete disarmament. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by India's national security interests and its tradition of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with these challenges.

India participated actively in the meetings of the United Nations (UN) First Committee, UN Disarmament Commission, Conference on Disarmament, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Fourth Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-IV), High-level Expert Preparatory Group (HLEPG) on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), UN Secretary General's (UNSG) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM), CERN, UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

### First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

India highlighted its commitment to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament at the 72nd session of the First Committee of the 2017 UN General Assembly.

As a Member of the Non-Aligned Movement, India supported the Group's resolution "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament" at the 2017 First Committee. The resolution inter alia called for urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention, welcomed the commemoration and promotion of

26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and decided to convene a high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament by the UN in 2018.

During the general debate and thematic debate on nuclear weapons at the 2017 First Committee, India underlined its commitment to nuclear disarmament. Notwithstanding the priority attached 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 that meets India's national security interests.

India's resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", which was first introduced in 2002, was again adopted this year by consensus. The resolution co-sponsored in 2017 by ninety-one countries, 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. The strong support for the resolution highlighted the continued unanimity in the international community on this issue.

India's resolution on the "Convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons" reiterated the call to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on an international convention for prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The resolution was adopted by a majority vote by the First Committee, and was co-sponsored by twenty countries and was adopted by First Committee by 115 votes in favour, fifty against and eleven abstentions. 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, which was co-sponsored by twenty countries. The First Committee also adopted a new resolution tabled by India on "Role of science and technology in the context of

international security and disarmament”, by consensus. This resolution is a significant initiative as it acknowledges that the accelerating pace of technological change necessitates a system-wide assessment of the potential impact of developments in science and technology on international security and disarmament. The resolution requests the UN Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts, with an annex containing submissions from Member States giving their views on the matter.

### **UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)**

The UN Disarmament Commission held its substantive session for 2017 from 3-21 April 2017. 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 Confidence Building Measures (CBM) in the field of conventional weapons. India took an active part in the deliberations of the Commission which was successful in adopting, after a hiatus of eighteen years, consensus recommendations on “Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons”. India stressed 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 underlining the universal nature of UNDC.

### **Conference on Disarmament**

In the various discussions held in the Conference during the year, India continued to stress the need for commencement of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) by the adoption of a Programme of Work. India actively participated in the informal sessions of the Way Ahead Working Group (WAWG) and 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). India reaffirmed the value attached by India to the Conference as the world community’s single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. It highlighted that nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority for the international community. India also conveyed its support for negotiations in the Conference of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable FMCT which meets India’s national security interests. India underlined

that there is an agreed mandate for FMCT negotiations and India does not favour reopening that mandate. 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 2017, 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.

India submitted its updated National Report on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) to the Chair of the 1540 Committee on 13 June 2017. The report is available as UN Security Council document *S/AC.44/2017/2* dated 16 June 2017.

India implemented the relevant Security Council resolutions relating to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea through the issuance of an Order in April 2017 followed by an amendment thereto in October 2017 under the provisions of the United Nations (Security Council) Act 1947. In this regard, India’s National Implementation Report was submitted to the resolution 1718 Committee in April 2017 (Security Council document *S/AC.49/2017/57* dated 27 April 2017) and December 2017 (Security Council document *S/AC.49/2017/129* dated 6 December 2017) respectively.

### **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

India continued to attach importance to the CCW which aims to strike a balance between addressing humanitarian concerns arising from the use of certain conventional weapons and the military necessity of such weapons. The salience of CCW in progressively strengthening the rules and principles of international humanitarian law has resulted in continued increase in its membership which stands to 125 now.

India chaired the first meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) of the Convention on Certain Conventional



Weapons (CCW) on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapon systems (LAWS) held in Geneva from 13-17 November 2017. The meeting adopted a report comprising a set of conclusions and recommendations which was endorsed by the Annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW. The GGE on LAWS will continue to carry out its mandate over ten days in 2018 under the chairmanship of India.

India participated actively and constructively in the annual meetings of the CCW and its Amended Protocol II (AP-II) and Protocol V. 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. At the 19th Annual Conference of AP-II held on 21 November 2017, India expressed its support for the approach enshrined in AP-II and continuing work on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) under AP-II. At the 11th Annual Conference of Protocol V held on 20 November 2017, 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 made a contribution of US\$ 10,000/- towards the Sponsorship Programme of the CCW for the year 2017. India's commitment to the CCW framework has extended to being a staunch supporter to an enthusiastic contributor to that of becoming a sponsor.

The Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in New Delhi with the support of MEA co-hosted an International Conference on CCW in New Delhi from 5 to 6 December 2017. It brought together over fifty government representatives from twenty-four countries across the wider Asia, Gulf and East African regions, as well as experts from a number of international and regional organisations to discuss issues related to weapons regulated under the CCW and those currently on the CCW agenda.

### **Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)**

India supports the vision of a world free of threat of landmines and is committed to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. India attended the 16th Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) held in Vienna, Austria from 18-21 December 2017 as an Observer.

### **Biological Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)**

The annual Meeting of State Parties (MSP) to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was held in Geneva from 4-8 December 2017 under the chairmanship of India. In fulfillment of its mandate, the MSP was successful in adopting, by consensus, an Inter-sessional programme for 12 days each year for the next three years (2018-20), meeting annually for four days as an MSP and for 8 days as Meetings of Experts (MX) to discuss International Cooperation; Review of developments in the field of science and technology; Strengthening national implementation; Assistance, response and preparedness; and Institutional strengthening of the Convention.

India is one of the four countries to contribute towards the BWC Sponsorship Programme, having made a contribution US\$ 10,000 for 2017. India has been regularly submitting its CBM report, including for 2017. A side-event entitled "Advances in Biological Sciences and Bio-containment" was convened by DBT-UNESCO Regional Centre for Biotechnology, India jointly with Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security, USA on 5 December 2017 on the sidelines of the MSP. DBT's Regulations and Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research and Bio-containment 2017 were released at the event.

### **Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Fourth Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-IV)**

India participated in the third substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament held in New York from 5-9 June 2017. The OEWG was successful in adopting, by consensus, recommendations for the Objectives and Agenda of the fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament.

### **High-level Expert Preparatory Group (HLEPG) on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)**

India participated in the first session of the High-level Expert Preparatory Group (HLEPG) on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) held in Geneva from 31 July - 11 August 2017.

## **UNSG's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM)**

India participated in the 69th Session of the UNSG's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM) which met in Geneva from 23-26 January 2018.

## **European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)**

India became an Associate member of CERN in 2017 and participated in the various sessions of the CERN Council, Scientific Policy Committee and Finance Committee in Geneva in 2017-18.

## **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 issues related to chemical weapons destruction, industry inspections, national implementation and international cooperation and assistance. As in previous years, India continued to play an active role by engaging with the States Parties during the sessions of EC namely the 86th (10-13 October 2017), 85th (11-14 July 2017), 84th (7-10 March 2017) and at the 22nd Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP) held during 27 November - 1 December 2017 in The Hague, Netherlands. India has been enrolled as a mentor to offer its assistance and support under the 'Mentorship/Partnership' Program of the OPCW.

## **Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)**

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 continued to make progress towards implementation of UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument. The third Review Conference on SALW is scheduled to be held in New York from 18-29 June 2018.

## **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

India participated in the 61st session of the IAEA General

Conference held in Vienna from 18-22 September 2017. As in previous years, India continued to play an active role by engaging with the States Parties during the meetings of the Board of Governors held on 6-10 March 2017, 12-16 June 2017, 11-15 September 2017, 25 September 2017, 23-24 November 2017 and the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) held on 8-12 May 2017 and the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC) held on 20-22 November 2017.

India actively participated in a number of international conferences and meetings, including the Seventh Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety held from 27 March - 7 April 2017 at the IAEA, Vienna, the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century held at Abu Dhabi, UAE on 30 October - 1 November 2017 and the International Conference on the "IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond" held in Vienna from 30 May - 1 June 2017. Indian technical experts also participated at several other IAEA meetings through the year.

## **Civil Nuclear Cooperation**

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy entered into force on 20 July 2017. The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Vietnam for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy entered into force on 16 August 2017. The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy entered into force on 8 April 2017.

## **Nuclear Security**

India actively participated in the meetings of the Nuclear Security Contact Group held in 2017. The NSCG is an outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit process in which India actively participated. India also participated at the International Conference on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities held in Vienna in November 2017. India also participated in the event commemorating the 10th anniversary of International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism held in Vienna on 5 December 2017.

## **Straits Of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)**

India has been an active member of Co-operative Mechanism set up in 2007 on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) under the IMO's "Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes" initiative. Building on the earlier contributions, India participated in the 10th Cooperation Forum and 10th Project Coordination Committee meeting in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia from 2-4 October 2017. India also contributed the sum of 30 Lakhs for the Aids to Navigation Fund which acts as a treasurer to Cooperative Mechanism and provides budget for planned maintenance of identified aids to navigation and also IMO projects in strategically important SOMS.

## **Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia**

India participated at the 20th Plenary Session of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) held in Mauritius from 5-7 July 2017. India along with UAE and Seychelles were chosen as co-chairs for the Working Group-1 which deals with "Operations at Sea".

## **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

India actively participated in CICA events including the CICA Business Council and the Seminar on the Theory and Practice of Rural Development and Poverty Reduction in CICA Member States. EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj, attended the Informal Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 21 September 2017. The meeting issued a statement to mark the 25th Anniversary of CICA. India also held a CICA Workshop on Tourism under the economic dimension of the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) from 28-29 September 2017 in New Delhi. The workshop saw active participation of the CICA Secretariat and member states.

## **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ADMM Plus**

The role of ASEAN and its sister organizations, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meet Plus (ADMM+) have become more relevant in the security architecture of the region.

Keeping in line with India's 'Act East' policy, India actively participated in all the Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) and the Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs) held under the aegis of ARF. India co-chaired the 15th ARF ISM on Counter-Terrorism and Trans National Crime (CTTC) held in Semarang, Indonesia from 6-7 April 2017. Along with ASEAN chair Philippines, India co-chaired ARF Workshop on "Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments" held in Manila from 11-12 July 2017. Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) attended the 24th ARF Ministerial Meet in Manila on 7 August 2017.

India along with Myanmar is co-chairing the ADMM+ Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine and co-chaired the related Inter Sessional meeting as well as participated in various workshops and events organized under the aegis of ADMM+. India's Defence Minister, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation to the annual ADMM+ dialogue held in Clark, Pampanga, Philippines from 23-25 October 2017.

### **Maritime Affairs**

India held annual Maritime Security Dialogues with Australia, France, Japan and US this year. In addition, Informal consultations on Maritime Security were also undertaken with the European Union. The dialogue covered issues of mutual interest, including exchange of perspectives on maritime security development in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region as well as prospects for further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

India signed White Shipping Agreements with a number of countries taking the tally to 15 in order to enhance co-operation in Maritime Domain Awareness. In addition, India also signed MoU on Maritime Cooperation with Myanmar.

### **Export Control**

India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement on 8 December 2017 as the Arrangement's 42nd Participating State. India's entry into the Arrangement would be mutually beneficial and further contribute to international security and non-proliferation objectives.

India's applications for membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Australia Group continue to be under consideration of the Groups.

India continued to actively participate in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) meetings including the Plenary and Experts Group meetings held in Dublin in October 2017.

During the year, India's export control system was updated in April, June and September 2017 to harmonise it with the guidelines and control lists of the four multilateral export control regimes namely the Wassenaar Arrangement, NSG, MTCR and the Australia Group. In addition, Standard Operating Procedures for issue of authorisation for export of Munitions were also revised in May 2017.

### **The Hague Code of Conduct**

India submitted its annual declaration to the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) in March 2017. In compliance with the

commitments on transparency and confidence building measures, India regularly notifies the HCoC through pre-launch notifications of India's ballistic missile and space launches. India also participated in the 16th Regular Meeting of HCoC held on 6-7 June 2017 in Vienna.

### **Outer Space**

India actively participated at the meetings of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in Vienna.



## Multilateral Economic Relations (MER) Division

### 9th Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Summit

The 9th BRICS Summit was held from 4-5 September 2017 in Xiamen under the theme of 'BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future'. President Mr. Xi Jinping of China presided over the Summit proceedings. President Michel Temer of

Brazil, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led their respective delegations to the Summit.

At the Xiamen BRICS Summit, the Leaders held discussions on Economic & Finance Cooperation, Global Economic Governance, and International Peace and Security.



*Group Photograph of BRICS Leaders at the BRICS Summit - 2017 in Xiamen, China on 4 September 2017.*

The outcomes of the Summit included the Xiamen Declaration in which strong sentiments were expressed by BRICS leaders on terrorism. BRICS leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and deplored terrorist attacks against BRICS countries. Leaders' Declaration lists Taliban, Al-Qaida, Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as groups perpetrating terrorism.

Leaders called to make United Nations (UN) counter-terrorism framework effective and efficiency in designation of terrorists and terrorist-groups by UN Committees. Leaders called for dismantling terrorist bases, and to prevent movement of terrorists. BRICS Leaders called for countering radicalization, Recruitment, blocking terrorist finance, money-laundering, supply of weapons, drugs and countering misuse of internet.

Other elements in the Xiamen Declaration were (i) Trade & Investment - Investment facilitation, trade in services, e-commerce, Intellectual Property Rights, BRICS E-Port Network; (ii) Financial Cooperation – Public Private Partnership, Accounting Standards, Local Currency Bond Fund, Financial Market Integration, currency swap, local currency direct settlement; (iii) Interbank Local Currency Credit Line and cooperation on credit-rating; (iv) Terror Finance, Proliferation and money laundering (FATF); (v) Explore BRICS Institute of Future Networks; (vi) Joint research in Information and Communications Technology (internet, data analytics, nano-technology); (vii) Energy cooperation (access, security), Proposal for Energy Research Cooperation Platform; (viii) Customs- trade facilitation, security, enforcement, capacity building, Commitment to make progress on BRICS Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement; (ix) Voices of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs), International Monetary Fund (IMF) reform, World Bank Group Shareholding Review; (x) SEMI (Exchange of Information in Macroeconomic Stability); (xi) World Trade Organization - Implementation of Bali, Nairobi MCM and cooperation for Argentina meeting; (xii) Cooperation in G20; (xiii) Tax cooperation, BEPS; (xiv) UN Peace and Security, Comprehensive Reforms of the UN, including the Security Council; (xv) Situation in Syria, Middle East, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran, etc.

In addition BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation; BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation (2017-2020); Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation; and MoU between BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation were signed during the Summit.

In continuation of BRICS tradition of outreach at BRICS Summits, China invited Emerging Market and Developing Countries for a dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the building of broad partnerships for development under the theme of "Strengthening Mutually-Beneficial Cooperation for Common Development". Leaders of Egypt, Guinea, Mexico, Tajikistan, and Thailand attended the Outreach segment of the Summit with BRICS leaders.

## **BRICS Leaders Meeting on the margins of G20 Summit**

A customary informal Meeting of BRICS Leaders was held on 7

July 2017 on the margins of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. The meeting was chaired by Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping. The Leaders held wide-ranging discussions on the G20 Summit Agenda and agreed to pursue issues of global and mutual interest to the BRICS countries at the G20. Besides, the agenda of the meeting comprised exchange of views on a wide range of global political, security, economic and global governance issues of importance and mutual concern.

## **BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj, attended the customary BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the margins of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly (UNGA) was held on 21 September 2017 in New York. Besides intra-BRICS cooperation, the Ministers discussed global political and economic situation and key issues of the 72nd UNGA, i.e. Terrorism, West Asia, UN reforms, and Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).

Ministers of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) attended the standalone meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers on 18 & 19 June 2017 in Beijing. The Ministers exchanged views on a wide range of global political, security, economic and financial issues of importance and mutual concern, as well as cooperation within BRICS. They committed to strengthening the coordination and cooperation among BRICS in the areas of mutual and common interest within the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, including through regular meetings among their permanent representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna and further enhance the voice of BRICS in international fora. The Ministers deplored the continued terrorist attacks, including in some BRICS countries. They condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever committed and by whomsoever.

## **The 12th G20 Summit**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation to the Twelfth G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany on 7 & 8 July 2017. The theme of the Summit was "Shaping an interconnected world". The agenda of the Summit included Global Growth and Trade, Sustainable Development, Climate and Energy, Partnership with Africa, Migration, and Health, Digitalisation, Women's Empowerment, and Employment. The G20 Leaders issued a Communiqué at the Summit.

Special emphasis to addressing the global menace of terrorism was accorded at the Summit. The G20 Leaders' Retreat on

'Fighting Terrorism' was held on 7 July 2017, wherein the Hamburg G20 Leaders' Statement on Countering Terrorism

was issued. The Leaders called for elimination of terrorist safe-havens in every part of the world.



*Prime Minister in the group photograph with other Leaders' of G20 Nations, at Hamburg, Germany on 7 July 2017.*

The Hamburg Declaration while taking note of USA's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement endorsed the "irreversibility" of Paris Agreement. It highlights energy-security as the guiding-principle for the transformation of energy system and calls for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to promote universal access to affordable and clean energy. G20 Leaders committed to further align actions with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. The G20 Africa Partnership was launched at the Summit including initiatives of eSkill4Girls, Rural Youth Employment, and Investment Compacts. Digitalization, a key initiative of German Presidency, features prominently in the Declaration.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made lead intervention at the G20 Leaders' Retreat on 'Fighting Terrorism'. He put forward an eleven point action agenda on countering terrorism which included Zero Tolerance towards Terrorism; call for firm and deterrent action against countries supporting terrorism; exchange of national lists of designated terrorists; joint-action against terrorists and their supporters; legal processes such as extradition be simplified; early adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism; effective implementation of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions; Joint efforts on de-radicalisation programmes and exchange of best practices by G20; effective closure of sources of terrorist-financing with the help of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other processes; cooperation on Cyber Security to stop

terror activities.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for fighting corruption, black money & tax evasion as it is essential to effective financial governance. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called to support and sustain a regime of openness and to curb protectionism. He also called for free movement of skilled workforce. He indicated that India's priority is to work towards Trade Facilitation Agreement for Services.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) together with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is our blueprint for a better tomorrow. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in this regard, proposed an international coalition of countries to build disaster resilient infrastructure.

### **India, Brazil & South Africa (IBSA)**

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj participated in the customary IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the margins of 72nd UNGA on 21 September 2017. The IBSA Foreign Ministers discussed various topics of mutual interest including global political situation, Global Economic and Financial Situation, Reform of Global Governance and Sustainable Development.

The Eighth IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting was held in Durban, South Africa on 17 October 2017. MoS Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) led Indian delegation in the Meeting. Ministers exchanged views on Sustainable

Development, Global Economy & Financial Situation and Reform of Global Governance, Blue Economy, IBSA's Future Agenda and on other issues of common interest. The Ministers reiterated IBSA's shared values of democracy, multiculturalism, tolerance, and rule of law. Ministers also stressed mutual

convergence of views on various global issues including reform of global governance and that of UNSC. Ministers strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. An Agreement on the IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger was also signed on this occasion.



*External Affairs Minister speaking at IBSA on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of UN General Assembly in New York on 21 September 2017.*

### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

India continued to engage with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) under its stated policy of "Limited Sectoral Engagement". India received visits of senior functionaries of OECD twice during the year.

### **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):**

India continued its engagement in various UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meetings.



## South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

### SAARC

Regional cooperation in SAARC continued primarily at technical and official levels in various sectors. Ministerial level meetings that were held during the period include the 8th Meeting of SAARC Interior/Home Ministers (Colombo, 13 July 2017), 6th Meeting of SAARC Health Ministers (Colombo, 29 July 2017), Informal Meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers on the sidelines of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly (New York, 21 September 2017) and the 11th Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers on the sidelines of the annual meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) (Yokohama, Japan on 5 May 2017). While participating in these meetings, India stressed on the importance to have an atmosphere free of terror and highlighted need to move forward on key initiatives for meaningful cooperation to take place.

India continued delivering on the unilateral initiatives that it offered at the 18th SAARC Summit. The South Asia Satellite was launched on 5 May 2017 from Sriharikota. In an unprecedented video-conference held after the launch, leaders of the participating countries commended the initiative.

India continued its support for South Asian University (SAU) which has established itself as a centre of academic excellence. The second convocation of SAU was held in New Delhi on 12 June 2017 wherein about 185 students were awarded Degrees. India is committed to meet 100% of capital cost of the University and construction of its permanent campus is in full swing.

In the area of disaster management, India continued to share its capabilities and capacities for the region. On 24 May 2017 Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani inaugurated the SAARC Disaster Management Centre Interim Unit (SDMC-IU) at the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), Gandhinagar. The SDMC-IU has been regularly conducting training programmes on various disaster management related topics with participation from all Member States including on topics such as application of space technology in monitoring and managing risks, short range regional early warning system, advance search and rescue techniques, disaster resistance construction technologies, community Based Approaches to Flood Management and seasonal climate forecasts mechanism.



*External Affairs Minister at the SAARC Ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 21 September 2017.*

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha participated at the 8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians in Colombo, Sri Lanka held from 4-6 October 2017.

India also participated in the 54th Meeting of the Programming Committee of SAARC held on 12&13 December 2017 in Kathmandu and in the meetings of the Governing Boards of various SAARC Regional Centers/Specialized Bodies including SAARC Arbitration Council (SARCO), SAARC Cultural Centre, SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre.

At the technical level, India hosted the following meetings during the period under consideration:

- Regional training on Field Epidemiology Training Programme for the Veterinarians in Bengaluru on 15-24 May 2017.
- SAARC-CGIAR (The Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) Consultative meeting on Agriculture Research & Development for food and nutritional security in SAARC Region in New Delhi on 2 & 3 August 2017.
- 7th Meeting of South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) Sectoral Technical Committee (STC) on Food and Agricultural Products in Noida on 4 & 5 October 2017.
- Inception Meeting of South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Cross-border Power Trade Working Group on 12 & 13 October 2017 in New Delhi.
- Regional Consultation Workshop on Facilitating the use of microbial pesticides in South Asia at National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR) in Bengaluru on 21 & 23 August 2017.
- Skill development Programme on Solar Technologies for officials from SAARC countries on 12-29 September 2017 by National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram.

The 54th Session of SAARC Programming Committee preceded by the Expert Group meeting to review pay structures of General Services staff categories II – VII in the SAARC Secretariat was held on 11-13 December 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (SAARC &

BIMSTEC), MEA. The Programming Committee discussed matters related to the budget of SAARC secretariat for the year 2018, Reports of the Governing bodies and other Administrative matters of SAARC secretariat, Regional Centre and Specialized Bodies.

India demonstrated her commitment to foster a closely linked South Asia region as extension of connectivity of India's National Knowledge Network to Sri Lanka was inaugurated on 15 January 2018. The inauguration was graced by our Union Cabinet Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and Minister of Telecommunication and Data Infrastructure of Sri Lanka Mr. Harin Fernando.

India continued to offer capacity building programmes in the field of Disaster Management to countries in the South Asian Region. Training Program on Main streaming Disaster Management in the Infrastructure sector was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 8-12 January 2018 by the SAARC Disaster Management, Centre (IU), Gandhinagar (SDMC (IU)).

To further bolster the collective preparedness against extreme weather events in the South Asian region, a Training Programme on Heat Wave preparedness and Response is to be organised by SDMC (IU), Gandhinagar from 8-10 March 2018 which will invite participation from SAARC member states.

Subsequent to the launch of the South Asia Satellite which was offered by India at the 18th SAARC Summit (Kathmandu, November 2014), demo terminals have been installed in all participating countries. The utilization plan for the South Asian Satellite is expected to be finalized soon.

## **BIMSTEC**

The 15th BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 10 & 11 August 2017 preceded by the 18th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting reviewed progress on the focus areas of cooperation. Indian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj, who stressed on India's commitment to the BIMSTEC process in her statement. The 17th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting was held on 7 February 2017 in Kathmandu.



*External Affairs Minister attends Inaugural Session of  
15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu 10 August 2017.*

As a follow up to the First Meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs held in New Delhi in March 2017, India hosted the First Meeting of BIMSTEC Track 1.5 Security Dialogue Forum was held in Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi on 22 September 2017. Official and non-official delegates from each of the Member States participated in the Dialogue that discussed both traditional and non-traditional security threats to the BIMSTEC Member States and measures necessary to deal with these threats in a collective manner. The ninth meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Combating the Financing of Terrorism was held in Yangon on 26 & 27 April 2017, wherein India participated at official level.

In the area of Environment and Disaster Management, India hosted the First BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise (DMEx) from 10-13 October 2017 which was an unprecedented exercise of that scale in BIMSTEC. More than 135 delegates from all BIMSTEC countries including professionals at both policy and operational levels participated in the exercise that had simulated scenarios of disaster events such as flood and building collapse. The Exercise was conducted by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) with support of Ministry of External Affairs and coordination by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry Of Home Affairs. A Preparatory Meeting for DMEx was held on 8 & 9 August 2017.

During the year, major steps to enhance connectivity in BIMSTEC were undertaken. India hosted the first meeting of the Working Group to discuss and finalize a BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping was held in New Delhi on 27 & 28 November 2017. The Meeting finalized the text for further comments/concurrence of Member States. India chaired the Second meeting of BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group (BTCWG) held in Bangkok on 13 & 14 November 2017. The Meeting finalized the concept paper for a master plan for BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity as tasked by the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers, for further approval of Member States. India also circulated the draft text of a BIMSTEC Framework Agreement on Transit, Trans-shipment and Movement of Vehicular Traffic as mandated by the BIMSTEC Leaders.

With a view to boost cooperation under tourism sector, the First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators was hosted by India on 7 July 2017 in New Delhi.

India hosted the first meeting of the BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BTFTM) on 24 & 25 October 2017 in New Delhi. Senior Officials from BIMSTEC countries discussed best practices, technical, research collaborations and human resources capacity building as well as initiatives, proposals and programmes in traditional medicine during the meeting.

Major events held among other sectors of cooperation include the third meeting of BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (Dhaka, 22-23 April 2017), International Conference on Strengthening Cultural Linkages in the Bay of Bengal Region (Bangkok, 27 & 28 May 2017), Workshop on International Cooperation focused on 'Asset Recovery' for BIMSTEC Member States (Dhaka, 30 May – 1 June 2017), First BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Alleviation (Kathmandu, 1 November 2017), Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (Colombo, 21 November, 2017), International Workshop on Blue Economy (Dhaka, 22-23 November 2017), Workshop on Promotion of Agriculture Trade and Investment among BIMSTEC Member States (Thimpu, 29-30 November 2017), Sixth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation meeting (Chiang Rai, Thailand, 12-16 December 2017) and the Third Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation, preceded by the Third BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on Poverty Alleviation (Colombo, 19 & 20 December 2017). India actively participated in these events.

To mark the 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC, India undertook a wide range of initiatives during the year. These include:

- Participation of BIMSTEC Countries in Textiles India event held from 30 June – 2 July 2017 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- BIMSTEC Trade Expo on 15-17 September 2017 in Kolkata
- Launch of the BIMSTEC Tele-Medicine Network in Puducherry on 13 July 2017 by Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in collaboration with nine premier medical institutions in the region
- International Tourism Mart with Focus on BIMSTEC on 5-7 December 2017 in Guwahati
- Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage on 8-10 December 2017 in New Delhi

For furthering cooperation in the field of agriculture among BIMSTEC member States, the 6th Meeting of Expert Group on Agriculture Cooperation was held in Chiang Rai, Thailand from 13-15 December 2017.

The 3rd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting preceded by the 3rd BIMSTEC Senior Officers' Meeting on Poverty Alleviation was held in Sri Lanka from 19-20 December 2017.

The 3rd BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting is to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 8-9 February 2018 where the MoU for BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection is expected to be signed, this will be a major step towards promoting rational and optimal power transmission in the BIMSTEC region.

## Development Cooperation

### Development Partnership Administration (DPA)

Development partnership is a key instrument of India's foreign policy. The scope and reach of India's development assistance has seen considerable expansion in the past few years. India's abiding geo-political, strategic and economic interests and the need to effectively deliver India's assistance programme has prompted greater engagement with developing countries particularly on the development assistance front. The Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was created in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in January 2012 to effectively handle development projects and programmes through the stages of conception, launch, execution and completion. DPA functions in close coordination with the concerned Territorial Divisions of the Ministry, which continue to be the principal interlocutors with partner countries on identifying their developmental priorities. The DPA is progressively developing the expertise required to handle projects in varied sectors and regions through the stages of project appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

India's development partnership is based on the needs of the partner countries and is geared towards responding to as many of the requests received from these countries as technically and financially feasible. The main instruments of India's development assistance include Lines of Credit (LOC), Grant assistance, Small Development Projects (SDP), Technical Consultancy, Disaster Relief and Humanitarian aid, as well as capacity-building programmes for civilian and military training under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). The focus of development assistance has been the countries in India's neighbourhood and Africa, though India is also expanding its development assistance reach to South East Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Mongolia, Pacific Island Countries, etc.

DPA comprises of three Divisions. DPA-I looks after the LOC 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 the MEA. 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 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 implementation of grant assistance projects in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar and Sri Lanka in a speedy and efficient manner in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments and agencies of Government of India.

### Development Projects with grant assistance in neighbouring countries:

The development projects being undertaken with Government of India grant assistance cover a range of sectors from infrastructure development, including roads & bridges, waterways and transmission lines, construction, power generation, agriculture, capacity building, education, health, community development etc. India has been a steadfast partner of Afghanistan in its reconstruction and development efforts. The new Parliament Building in Kabul was inaugurated by Prime Minister jointly with the President of Afghanistan on 25 December 2015. The new structure, which symbolises the common commitment of India and Afghanistan to pluralism and democracy, was handed over to the Afghan side in March 2016. Another major project that was completed in 2016 is the Afghan India Friendship Dam (AIFD) [earlier known as Salma Dam], which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the President of Afghanistan on 4 June 2016. The Dam is now generating power and irrigating thousands of hectares of land in Western Afghanistan. Similarly, the historic Stor Palace in Kabul was restored and inaugurated in August 2016. The Diagnostic Centre at the Polyclinic of the Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health in

Kabul was operationalised following installation of requisite medical equipment with Government of India's assistance. The Special Scholarship Scheme for 1,000 Afghan students per annum (administered through ICCR) has been successfully undertaken during the admission years from 2012-13 to 2016-17. The Scheme has been extended for another five-year period from 2017-18 to 2021-22. The power sub-stations at Doshi and Charikar have been commissioned. Several community based Small Development Projects (SDP) continue to be implemented through local participation in areas of Agriculture, Education, Labour, Rural Development and Public Health. In September 2017, India and Afghanistan had agreed to initiate an ambitious and forward looking next generation 'New Development Partnership' and to take up 116 High Impact Community Development Projects to be implemented in thirty one provinces of Afghanistan, including in the areas of education, health, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, renewable energy, flood control, micro-hydropower, sports infrastructure, administrative infrastructure. A glazed tile plant has been established at Mazar-e-Sharif with India's assistance. India has been extending active support to the Afghanistan National Agriculture Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) established in Kabul through mutual partnership.

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 sixty nine bridges in the Tamu - Kyigone - Kalewa section and upgradation of 120 km road in the Kalewa-Yargi section. Another road project for which the Detailed Project Report has been finalised is a 100 km Rih-Tedim road in the Chin State of Myanmar adjacent to the Indian State of Mizoram. 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 Information Technology (IT) institute in Mandalay, has commenced the Post Graduate Diploma in Software Development (PGDSD) and five-year computer engineering programmes. The supply

and commissioning of state-of-the-art medical equipment to Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital is near completion. Projects that were completed in the recent past include Original waterways component of Kaldan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project, Rice Bio-Park, Computerisation of Land Records Department, Language Labs and E-resource Centre in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw and upgradation of the Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills.

The projects to construct Integrated Check Posts (ICP) on the India-Nepal border and cross-border railway links are at various stages of implementation to enhance connectivity between India and Nepal. Development of ICP at Birgunj-Raxaul and Biratnagar-Jogbani is currently under progress. Steps for implementing the remaining three rail links Nautanwa-Bhairahawa; Rupaidiha-Nepalgunj and New Jalpaiguri-Kakarbhitta as the second Phase of the India-Nepal Rail connectivity project have been initiated. The supply of balance medical equipment to the 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2014, has been completed. Two roads under first package of Phase I of Terai road project were completed in November 2015 and opened to traffic. Fire tenders were supplied to thirteen Municipalities of Nepal in August 2016. The India-Nepal cross border Transmission Lines (Raxaul to Parwanipur and Kataiya to Kushaha) project is nearing completion. India is also undertaking developing of ICPs at Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa on India-Nepal border, Detailed Engineering Reports (DERs) for which has been prepared. Two other projects under implementation include the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala and the Nepal Bharat Maitri Polytechnic at Hetauda.

India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is based on a consultative approach, factoring in the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka. The district hospital building at Dickoya was constructed and handed over to the Sri Lankan Government. The restoration of Thiruketheeswaram temple at Mannar is nearing completion, while the construction of a modern state-of-art cultural centre, Jaffna is progressing well.

Development projects in Maldives are at different stages of implementation. The Composite Training Centre was successfully built at Mafillaafushi Island in Maldives. The renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, which was built with Government of India's assistance in the 1990s, has been renovated in June 2017. The work on the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) [formerly

National Police Academy(NPA)] has commenced and the construction of Ministry of Defence (MOD) Building in Male is expected to start early next year.

Metro Express project, New Supreme Court Building, Education-Tablets, Special Housing for Poor and New Ears, Nose and Throat (ENT) Hospital projects are being implemented by Government of Mauritius with assistance from India and its own resources. These projects are being implemented with Indian consultants and contractors under the supervision of Joint Project Monitoring Committees.

## Lines of Credit (LOC)

Development partnership is a key instrument in India's foreign policy. Extension of LOC on concessional terms is an important component of India's development cooperation policy in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Since 2005-06, 246 LOC aggregating to US\$ 24.33 billion have been extended to more than sixty countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 9.42 billion has been allocated for African countries and US\$ 14.13 billion for Asian countries, with the balance US\$ 0.77 billion for Latin America, Oceania and Commonwealth for Independent States (CIS) countries. Aimed primarily at promoting bilateral cooperation, the LOC enable borrowing countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building as per their developmental priorities. In the process it helps Indian companies and business enterprises to tap new markets and promotes export of Indian goods and services.

LOC are governed by the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Schemes (IDEAS) Guidelines which were revised and issued by Government of India on 7 December 2015. Several areas of improvement have been introduced in the LOC implementation process including mandatory Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Pre-qualification (PQ) process for selection of Consultants and Contractors, institutionalization of a detailed monitoring mechanism, and empanelment of Indian Consulting firms and Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractors. Exim Bank has completed empanelment of eighty two Consulting Firms in various sectors. A total of 117 Firms have been empanelled as EPC Contractors. It may be mentioned that this as a continuous process through which companies are getting registered. Between April to November 2017, six LOC have been approved with total value aggregating to US\$ 248.50 million. Ten projects aggregating US\$ 233.41 million across seven

countries have been completed.

### New Lines of Credit (LOC):

Following new LOC have been extended by Government of India in the current year (April-November 2017):

- LOC of US\$ 5 billion to the Government of Bangladesh announced during the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to India in April 2017. LOC Agreement signed on 4 October 2017 during the visit of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to Dhaka.
- LOC Agreement of US\$ 318 million to Sri Lanka for procurement of railway rolling stock, upgradation of Maho-Omanthai railway track and other Railway projects signed in November 2017.
- LOC of US\$ 71.4 million extended to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for upgradation of four military hospitals.
- LOC of US\$ 500 million extended to Mauritius for equity participation for financing various infrastructural projects, viz. Metro, Social Housing, New Administrative City at Cote D'or, Energy and Water projects.
- LOC of US\$ 81 extended to Rwanda for establishment of ten Vocational Training Centres and four Business Incubation Centres.
- LOC of US\$ 80 million extended to Rwanda for Huye-Kibeho-Ngoma-Munini Road project.
- LOC of US\$ 18 million (additional) extended to Zambia for completion of the Pre-fabricated Health Posts under earlier LOC.
- LOC of US\$ 27.5 million extended to Suriname for upgradation of transmission network infrastructure and power generation.
- LOC of US\$ 17.5 million extended to Guyana for upgradation of three primary centres/hospitals.
- LOC of US\$ 24.5 million extended to Senegal for upgradation and rehabilitation of Health care system.

### Completed LOC Projects:

The 2nd Bhairab Rail Bridge and 2nd Titas Rail Bridge in Bangladesh were inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India and Bangladesh through video conference in November 2017. These bridges were constructed with funding under the LOC of US\$ 862 million extended to the Government of Bangladesh. These rail bridges will help in enhancing rail connectivity of

Dhaka with Sylhet and Chittagong. Another project for design, supply, installation and commissioning of computer-based interlocked colour light signaling system of Ashuganj-Akhaura section of Bangladesh Railway was also successfully completed under the same LOC.

The project for development and modernization of Steel Plant in Hama, Syria undertaken under LOC of US\$ 25 million extended to Syria was commissioned and inaugurated in May 2017. This project, which was on hold for five years due to the adverse security situation in Syria, was restarted in May 2016 and completed within twelve months under extremely difficult circumstances. The Hama Steel Plant is one of the first public projects to begin operation in Syria after the outbreak of war.

The project for supply of 489 Bus Engine Kits to Sri Lanka was completed successfully under the LOC of US\$ 382.37 extended to Sri Lanka. In Africa, the extension of rural water project in Mozambique, construction of infrastructure and supply & installation of Turnkey Fish Processing Plant in Ghana and expansion of upper Ruvu water treatment plant in Tanzania have also been completed in the current year.

As part of the monitoring of on-going LOC projects, bilateral reviews were conducted with all the countries on rotation basis. Status Reports on the progress of ongoing projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America were also received from Indian Missions and Exim Bank of India.

#### **Development Projects with grant assistance in neighbouring countries:**

The development projects being undertaken with Government of India grant assistance in neighbouring countries cover a range of sectors from infrastructure development, including construction, roads & bridges, waterways and transmission lines as also power generation, agriculture, capacity building, education, health, rural development etc

India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is based on a consultative approach, factoring in the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka. The ongoing housing project involving construction of 50,000 houses for resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka has progressed well. The construction and repair of 45,000 houses under an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces is nearly accomplished with the completion of 44,434 houses.

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 for 1,134 houses by the Sri Lankan Government. Estates have been identified for the remaining 2,866 houses and identification of land/beneficiaries is under process by Government of Sri Lanka.

An announcement was made by Prime Minister Shri Naredra Modi during his visit to Sri Lanka in May 2017 for construction of additional 10,000 houses for the Indian Origin Tamils in the Central and Uva provinces of Sri Lanka.

## **Development Projects in Africa**

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, sharing of development experiences and is focussed on addressing the priorities and needs of the African countries. The engagement with African countries through various development partnership initiatives has witnessed a marked increase in the last decade. The three India-Africa Forum Summits (IAFS I, II & III) in 2008, 2011 and 2015 have further reinforced the development partnership with the continent. The projects identified under IAFS-II e.g. setting up of Centers on Geo-Informatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD) and establishment of Rural Technology Parks are under implementation. CGARD Centre in Madagascar has been commissioned by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD& PR) in November 2017 and currently under the operationalization phase. In IAFS-III, India gave a push towards enhancing cooperation with African countries by offering additional US\$ 10 billion in concessional credit (LOCs) and a grant assistance of US\$ 600 million.

The notable support extended to countries in Africa under Grant assistance include supply of medicines to Seychelles, establishment of Business Incubation Centre in Tanzania, setting up of CGARD Centre in Madagascar, Pilot project for tomato cultivation in Ghana, supply of ambulances to Mali & Tanzania, mini buses to Somalia and Medical equipment & CT Scan Machines to Ethiopia and Liberia. Further upgradation and modernization of Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technical Development (CEDT) Centre, Senegal has been approved in October 2017.

## **Capacity Building through Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC)**

Capacity building continued to be an important strand of



India's development partnership programme in 2017-18. The Indian technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme continued to strengthen in scope and outreach, with the inclusion of new partner institutions and courses in emerging areas.

During 2017-18, 10,918 civilian training slots were made available under ITEC Programme to 161 partner countries (List of partner countries is given in Appendix-V) 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 (GoI), with more than sixty eight premier institutions running courses, conducted around 309 courses for working professionals in a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines such as Agriculture, Food and Fertilizers; Banking, Finance, Accounts and Audit; Education; Engineering and Technology; English Language; Environment and Climate Change; Government Function; Health and Yoga; Human Resource Development and Planning; Irrigation and Water Resources; Information Technology (IT) and Business English; Journalism; Management and Leadership; Power, renewable & Alternate Energy; Project Management; Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation; Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Entrepreneurship; Sustainable Development and South-South Cooperation; Telecommunication; Textile; Trade and International Market; Urban Planning and Women Empowerment. Special/Customized courses were also conducted to meet the specific requirements of partner ITEC countries. Such courses conducted in year 2017-18 included courses for IT, Web Designing, English Communication Skills and Pedagogy, Yoga Trainers, Athletes, Public Administration, Advanced Management Program for State Owned Enterprise, Introductory Training Programme on Nanofabrication Technologies, Intellectual Property Rights, Technology Transfer and Cooperation, Security and Crossings of Borders for Officials of Customs Police; Special Programme for Senior Executives & Decision Makers of the Transmission & Distribution (T&D) Utilities; Workshop on Mainstreaming Climate Actions in Developmental Policies; Proficiency cum Professional Development course for Teachers; Project Management Training and Certification; Financing of Inclusive Agriculture and Rural Development; Sewage Treatment Process; Quality Rice Seed Production; Industrial and Societal Applications of Radiation Technologies and Radio-Tracer; Election Management; Designing and Managing the High Voltage, Direct Current (HVDC) System;

Fertilizer Technology; English Language; Mid-Career Training Programme in Field Administration for civil servants and special training programme for judicial officer. Besides, following the India-Africa Forum Summit-III, there has been a special focus on offering capacity building to African countries, for which key thrust areas have been identified based on a consultative mechanism. Approximately ten special courses have been conducted during 2017-18 exclusively for African nationals.

The 10,918 training slots for partner countries under the ITEC Programme included 500 slots made available separately for member countries of the Colombo Plan and the Colombo Plan Secretariat as India's contribution to capacity building efforts of the Colombo Plan and, besides, over 4,700 slots for African member countries of the Commonwealth, as India's contribution to the capacity building efforts of the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP);

The list of the courses and institutions is available on the ITEC Portal.

As in previous 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 online processes of ITEC portal facilitated the needs of ITEC participants, Missions/Posts and the participating institutions, in terms of making it easier for them to access details relating to institutions and approved courses etc. Engagement with Alumni networks has continued to strengthen through the ITEC portal and other social networking tools, and through the annual 'ITEC Day' functions organized at Missions abroad and institutions running ITEC courses in India. ITEC has acquired a strong brand name in the field of development partnership.

## Defence Training Programme

During 2017-18, 2,172 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, 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.

## Deputation of Experts

Deputation of experts under ITEC programme has served as a very important tool for sharing Indian expertise with the developing world. Up to November 2017, forty-nine experts in various fields are on deputation to partner countries in areas of Information and Communication Technology (I&CT), Coconut experts, English teachers and Ayurveda. Defence training teams have also been deputed to partner countries. In addition, India has been deputing lecturers to various colleges affiliated to the Royal University of Bhutan and also providing Indian facility on secondment to Colombo Plan Staff College (CDSC), Manila.

During 2017-18, exposure visits of Mozambican teachers facilitating interaction with teacher training institutes/schools and of a delegation from Ethiopia facilitating interaction with Gems & Jewellery sector have been conducted. In addition, about 2,172 defence training places were offered to partner countries in premier defence institutions in India. In line with Digital India initiatives, the online ITEC portal facilitated the continued engagement with ITEC Alumni and provided a comprehensive interface for ITEC activities.

## Projects

In other Development Projects, India is extending its expertise and experience through Archaeological Survey of India for

restoration and conservation of Ancient Cultural Heritage Monuments and temples in the South-East Asian region at Ta Prohm in Cambodia, My Son in Vietnam, and Wat Phou in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). India's strength in the field of IT is being shared with partner countries through establishment of various centres of excellence in IT and imparting training to partner countries including Costa Rica, Commonwealth of Dominica, Egypt, Morocco, Tanzania Guyana and Pacific Island countries. Technical know-how, requisite IT infrastructure and experts are being made available to Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat for upgrading their existing IT systems. During the year, construction of Belle Vue Road in Grenada was got constructed. Establishment of Vocational Training Centre at Zanzibar and Business Incubator Centre at Malawi are under way.

## Disaster Relief

Cooperation on the humanitarian front was extended by India to countries affected by disasters. Inter alia, medicines were made available to Mozambique and Myanmar. Food items were supplied to Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

## Other Development Cooperation

India also extended development cooperation to Cuba and Tanzania. Tractors and implements were provided to Cuba and NCERT books to Tanzania.

## Economic Diplomacy

### Social Security Agreements (SSAs)

ED Division as the competent authority in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to initiate and conclude negotiations on bilateral SSAs with other countries has signed and operationalized “comprehensive” Social Security Agreements (SSAs). As on date, India has signed and operationalized SSAs with eighteen countries - Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and South Korea. India has also signed SSA with the Quebec Province of Canada, which is in the process of getting operationalized. During the visit of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Netherlands on 28 June 2017, the Amending Protocol to the SSA between the two countries in 2009 was signed. The Amending protocol incorporated the “Country of Residence” principle in the SSA thereby bringing the element of equity and fairness in the SSA. The non-contribution period in the India-South Korea SSA has been extended from the current five years to a total of eight years. India and Brazil held the negotiations on SSA from 13-16 March 2017 in Brasilia and initialled the finalized text of the Social Security Agreement. The 2nd round of negotiations on Administrative Arrangement was held from 13-16 November 2017, New Delhi and the draft text of Administrative Arrangement was finalized.

#### Outreach:

On the Industry front, ED Division financed, co-organized or supported the following events:

- Africa: A Land of Opportunities held 21-22 July 2017 at PHD House, New Delhi.
- ‘11th International 2017:- Food Processing, Agribusiness & Dairy’ with the theme ‘MAKE IN INDIA TO INVEST INDIA’ on 7 September 2017 at Ahmedabad
- Business and Investment Forum in Armenia and Georgia on 25-28 September, 2017

- National Conference on “Sustainable Development of Smart Cities” by International Development Centre (IDC) Foundation.
- World Food India with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 3-5 November 2017
- 9th edition I For Africa 2017 with Indo-African Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IACCI), 12-14 November 2017.
- Indo Canada Business Chamber Annual National Convention 2017 on 13 November 2017.
- India-Jordan Trade and Investment Forum in December 2017, Amman, Jordan.
- Global Technology Summit (GTS 2017) on 7-8 December 2017, in Bengaluru.
- Bangalore Tokyo Technology Initiative (BTTI) 7 December 2017: Track 1.5 Dialogue between Foreign Secretary and the Ambassador of Japan to India on “Mapping Opportunities for Collaboration and Investments” and “Identifying Bottlenecks and Remedial Measures” Platform that will match Japanese entrepreneurs and investors with Indian techpreneurs, policy makers and economic influencers.

During the visit of Israel Prime Minister to India, the second edition of the India-Israel CEOs Forum was held on 15 January 2018. The Forum also briefed the two Prime Ministers on the major areas of convergences. Prime Minister gave a keynote address at the India-Israel Business Summit in which he articulated his vision for upgrading the economic, S&T and commercial engagement with Israel.

Prime Minister visited Davos from 22 - 23 January 2018 for the World Economic Forum and delivered the plenary address on the theme of 'Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World'. This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the WEF- the last one being in 1997. He also met top Global Business Leaders in Davos and interacted with the members of the

International Business Council consisting of 120 top chief executives of major transnational corporations across sectors.

External Affairs Minister inaugurated the India Pavilion at the Janadaryah Festival in Saudi Arabia in early February 2018 during her official visit to the Kingdom. India which was the Guest of Honour country showcased its contemporary strengths in economy, S&T, textiles, pharmaceuticals, defence, energy and other major sectors.

Ministry has been actively engaged with the Department of Economic Affairs with the preparations for the third Annual Board of Governors Meeting that will be held in Mumbai in June 2018.

Economic Diplomacy Division facilitated the negotiations on Air Services Agreements with 15 countries during the ICAO Air Services Negotiation held from 4 - 8 December 2017 at Colombo, Sri Lanka. During the negotiations “Memorandums of Understanding” were signed with 10 countries namely Tanzania, Nigeria, Morocco, Italy, Sri Lanka, Botswana, Thailand, Austria, Switzerland and Brunei. The other countries with which negotiations took place are Ethiopia, Zambia, Lao PDR, Bahrain and Iraq.

Economic Diplomacy Division has been part of the bilateral negotiations on BITs with Taiwan and Morocco.

## **Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB)**

For the first time in the history of the AfDB Group, India hosted the 52nd Annual Meetings of the Bank from 22-26 May 2017 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The annual meetings witnessed about 3,000 delegates from eighty-one member countries from across the world. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 23 May 2017. The Division was part of the core committee on the organisation of the meeting. The Division supported Africa India Cooperation Event, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), on the sidelines of the main event. During the annual meetings, an event on India-Japan Co-operation on Africa was also organized by the MEA in co-ordination with Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). The event discussed areas of India-Japan co-operation for the development of Africa including Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC). A signing ceremony of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement was also organized during the Annual Meetings.

The ED Division in association with the Government of Kerala held a two-day Diplomatic conclave on ‘Cashew trade for common good’ involving diplomats from the fifteen African Cashew growing countries from 28-29 June 2017. The conclave was attended by the Chief Minister of Kerala along with other senior Ministers and officials. Ambassadors/High Commissioners/officials of fifteen major cashew producing countries were invited to the Diplomatic conclave.

## **Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Panel Discussions**

The ED Division coordinated the day-long PBD Panel Discussion on the topic ‘Giving back to India: Opportunities and Challenges’ on 25 August 2017 in New Delhi. Fifteen eminent persons from the diaspora, and policy makers discussed the strategy for meaningfully connecting the diaspora to India’s development. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj chaired the Panel. During the course of the day-long panel discussions, several substantial ideas/suggestions were received which could help in connecting the Indian diaspora with India’s developmental efforts by making them active participants in its growth. The recommendations pertaining to different ministries/departments have been forwarded to them for further necessary action.

## **Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017**

The 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit was held from 28-30 November 2017 in Hyderabad. The Summit was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Summit was co-hosted by the USA. The USA delegation was led by Advisor to President Trump Ivanka Trump. This is the first time the Summit was being held in South Asia. ED Division was part of the Co-ordination Committee of Global Entrepreneur Summit (GES).

## **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) related issues**

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB is scheduled to be held from 22-27 June 2018 in Mumbai. ED Division is part of the Secretary level Committee for co-ordination of matters relating to the Annual Meetings.

## **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

A total of forty-six countries have signed the Framework Agreement for Establishment of International Solar Alliance.

India and France were the first two countries to ratify the Framework Agreement. To date, nineteen countries have ratified the agreement. As per the Article XIII of the Framework Agreement of ISA, it shall enter into force on the thirtieth day of the deposit of the 15th ratification instrument. Since the 15th instrument by Guinea was deposited on 6 November 2017, the ISA became a legal entity on 6 December 2017.

## **Support to Government of India's Economic Ministries**

### **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)**

ED Division is working closely with the Department of Economic Affairs on the issue of BIT. The Division participated in various rounds of negotiations on the BIT based on India's new Model Text approved by the Cabinet in December 2015. In the current year, the ED Division has taken part in these negotiations with numerous partner countries including Canada, Switzerland and Turkey.

ED Division is a part of the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) for extending approval for branches/representative offices of foreign banks in India.

On the Civil Aviation front, ED Division works closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation on bilateral Air Services negotiations. ED Division is part of the negotiations on Air Services Agreement. The ED Division contributed to the implementation of European Union (EU)-India Horizontal Agreement on Civil Aviation which was concluded during the EU-India Summit on 6 October 2017.

### **Energy Related Issues**

ED Division has contributed to the biennial work programmes developed between India and the International Energy Agency (IEA). Besides facilitating India's energy engagements at the multilateral forum, ED Division is also a part of the group of line ministries, involved in pursuing the bilateral energy dialogues with various countries.

## States Division

### **Facilitating of signing of Sister City/Sister State & other Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between State/ Union Territory Governments and foreign entities:**

States Division (SD) facilitated the signing of an MoU between Jaipur Development Authority and the Corporation of the City of Adelaide (Australia) in the field of smart city initiatives on 9 October 2017 in Adelaide. SD liaised with Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Rajasthan and other divisions of the Ministry to ensure that the necessary formalities are completed in time thus facilitating the signing of the MoU.

SD facilitated the signing of an Agreement on the establishment of Economic and Cultural Cooperation and exchange of expertise between New Delhi Municipal Council of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Leuven City of the Kingdom of Belgium on 8 November 2017.

In close coordination with other divisions of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DONER), SD facilitated the signing of an MoU between the State Government of Meghalaya, India and the Wallonia Region of the Kingdom of Belgium on 8 November 2017.

SD, in close coordination with other divisions of MEA approved a proposal of the Government of Maharashtra to sign a MoU between the Government of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra, Russian Federation and the state of Maharashtra, India on 19 June 2017.

SD, after taking the requisite approvals, facilitated Government of Andhra Pradesh to sign the 'Agreement on the Establishment of Sister-City relations based on friendship and cooperation between Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 17 October 2017.

Various Agreements /MoUs, are under process. Some of them await clearances from state governments.

### **Enhancing External Outreach of States**

SD participated at the State Protocol Conference on 21 August 2017 and gave a power point presentation to the state

government officials regarding "the role and function of SD in dealing with states and union territories and Indian Missions/Posts abroad".

SD represented MEA at the seminar on Heritage Tourism in West Bengal with a global perspective, which was organised by Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, in association with the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) in Kolkata on 28 July 2017.

SD represented MEA at an Interactive Session in New Delhi with a select group of Heads of Missions of foreign countries on 15 September 2017 as a prelude to Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2018 proposed to be held in Kolkata.

SD participated in the "Connect North East 2017" – the fourth edition of North East Connectivity Summit which was held in Kohima, Nagaland during 22 & 23 September 2017; and aimed at catalyzing thought and policy prescriptions for development of an action plan for seamless connectivity through infrastructure creation.

SD represented MEA at 'International Conference on Developing North East India' which was held in Aizawal on 25 & 26 October 2017. The conference focussed on key issues in development of North East India especially with regard to the challenges and prospects of the "Act East Policy".

SD facilitated pre-launch event of 'Global Investors Summit –Advantage Assam', to be held by Government of Assam in Guwahati on 4 February 2018.

SD supported and represented MEA at 'Hampi Utsav' held at UNESCO heritage site Hampi, Karnataka on 3 & 5 November 2017. It is an international festival celebrated every year to highlight the rich and cultural heritage of Hampi.

### **Assistance to foreigners in distress**

In the last two years, there have been instances when persons of foreign descent especially Africans were victims of crime which were, common law and order problems, without racial prejudice. SD immediately got in touch with the state/police authorities to take suitable action against the criminals; sought

police reports/case updates; state authorities requested on various occasions to take suitable action against the criminals to infuse confidence in the foreign nationals and also to ward off any reprisals against Indians residing in foreign countries. Immediate action was taken to diffuse the crisis so that these unsavoury incidents may not affect the bilateral relations between India and other countries.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj in her meeting with Heads of African nations, when some nationals of African descent were victims of crime, conveyed the efforts made to address various issues. SD collated all the information pertaining to these incidents against African nationals and compiled/ updated reports about the various cases which were used for assuaging the feelings of the foreign diplomats.

## **Compilation of data pertaining to foreign prisoners**

SD undertook a massive exercise and collated data, with complete details, about foreign prisoners lodged in jails of states and union territories of India which would be shared at bilateral interactions with concerned countries.

## **Diplomatic interaction at States**

In close-cooperation with territorial divisions, State Resident Commissions and state authorities, SD facilitated visits/calls on state dignitaries of foreign Ambassadors/diplomats to various states and union territories, spread all across in India.

## **Foreign delegations visits to States**

In close cooperation with Territorial Divisions, State Resident Commissions and state authorities, SD facilitated approximately hundred visits of foreign delegations to various states and union territories in India. Delegations from Australia, Czech Republic, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Slovak Republic, Syria, Thailand, Vietnam, United Kingdom and USA visited various states and union territories of India.

## **Safe and Legal Migration**

A media campaign was launched on 'Safe and Legal Migration' at 'national level' to increase awareness about Safe and Legal Migration for overseas employment mostly to the Gulf countries and Malaysia. A meeting of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Ministers of top labour sending states and Heads of Missions in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and

Malaysia was also held on 8 May 2017 chaired by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj. Pursuant to the meeting, it was decided to increase awareness about 'Safe and Legal Migration' at state

level by taking the media campaign to states. SD initiated constructive steps in this direction with state governments to promote 'Safe and Legal Migration' to the Gulf countries and Malaysia' and to spread the media campaign by broadcasting this message on local channels, cable TV, FM Radio and cinema halls etc.

SD deputed one of its officers to Nagpur, Maharashtra to attend a meeting on 21 August 2017 to review the Police Verification Process in connection with the issue of Passports in continuation of SD's efforts for the appointment of Nodal Officers by the top labor sending states to Gulf countries and Malaysia for safe and legal migration; and for the launching of a National Media Campaign at the grass root level for public awareness in the matter.

Joint Secretary (States) represented SD at the inaugural dialogue with the State Government of Maharashtra on 'consular issues & diaspora engagement' at Mumbai; and inauguration of Videsh Bhawan by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj on 27 & 28 August 2017.

SD participated in the MEA-State Outreach Programme on Consular, Passport and Diaspora Issues on 12 & 14 September 2017 which was held in Trivandrum.

## **Budgetary Allocations to Indian Missions/Posts abroad and Branch Secretariats /Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices**

SD undertook a major exercise for budgetary allocations to (a) Indian Missions/Posts abroad for undertaking 'state specific activities' to enhance the external outreach of the states under the head - "State Facilitation Abroad" and (b) Branch Secretariats, Regional Passport Offices and Passport Offices to undertake 'state specific activities' under the head "State Facilitation Knowledge Support". This is intended to financially empower MEA offices to support 'States of India related activities. To promote state outreach activities, both abroad & domestically, SD allocated funds to approximately 170 Missions/Posts of MEA abroad and thirty eight Branch Secretariats, Regional Passport Offices and Passport Offices of MEA in India.

In order to promote external outreach of Cultural Events in the states, SD facilitated and supported many cultural events organised by various states to enhance the external outreach of

the states. To name a few, some of these are: Manipur Sangai Festival 2016, Udaipur World Music Festival 2017, 4th North East Connectivity Summit, Hornbill Festival 2017, Hampi Festival 2017, Khajuraho Dance Festival, Tansen Music Festival, and Udaipur World Music Festival 2018.

#### **Bringing back the mortal remains of Indians and sending of DNA reports to Indian Missions etc.**

SD facilitated the bringing back of mortal remains of Indians who passed away in foreign countries by coordinating with the Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the state Resident Commissions of Punjab and Haryana. Personnel of SD were also deputed to facilitate receiving mortal remains of two persons which arrived from Wellington, at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi on 7 April 2017. Similarly, personnel of SD were deputed to facilitate receiving mortal remains of one person which arrived from the USA at IGI Airport, New Delhi on 15 April 2017. SD also liaised with the state authorities of Punjab and Consulate General of India (CGI), Istanbul to establish the identity of an unrecognised body of a suspected Indian national found floating west of Turkey by sending DNA samples of the relatives of the deceased. In another incident, official of SD was deputed to facilitate receiving mortal remains of one person which arrived from Kabul, at IGI Airport, New Delhi. Also, SD, liaised with the state authorities of Punjab and High Commission of India, Colombo to bring back the mortal remains of an Indian national from abroad. An official of SD was deputed to IGI Airport, New Delhi to facilitate receiving mortal remains of the deceased and then sending it to its native place on 16 August 2017.

Apart from it, SD, in close-coordination with Indian Missions/Posts abroad and state authorities especially State Resident Commissions facilitated the bringing back the mortal remains of the various Indians who unfortunately died abroad.

### **Other Activities Undertaken by States Division**

In order to facilitate visit of forty foreign diplomats to

Haridwar, Rishikesh and Dehradun from 30 September to 2 October 2017, which was organised in connection with 64th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), SD coordinated with state authorities and accompanied the foreign diplomats to ensure a successful visit.

SD coordinated requests received from the state authorities for the repatriation of distressed Indians with various Indian Missions/Posts abroad; and also liaised with them for locating the whereabouts of missing Indians working abroad.

SD brought to the notice of state authorities of Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh the nefarious activities of agents who were recruiting sailors on the pretext of providing them jobs on the ship. It was brought to the notice of state authorities that suitable action be taken against agents so that such acts are not repeated in future.

- (i) SD represented MEA at “Friends of Madhya Pradesh Conclave” at Indore on 3 & 4 January 2018. The aim of the conclave was to invite people of Indian origin from abroad, especially from Madhya Pradesh, to fuel socio-economic growth in the state. Indian Missions/Posts were requested to promote the event.
- (ii) SD represented MEA at the 4th edition of Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS 2018) organized by Government of West Bengal on 16-17 January 2018.
- (iii) SD facilitated the holding of Skill Summit 2018 Momentum Jharkhand which was held at Ranchi on 12 & 13 January 2018 and engaged various foreign Missions based in New Delhi for the event.
- (iv) SD is also promoting the Uttar Pradesh Investors’ Summit 2018, proposed to be held at Lucknow on 21 & 22 February 2018 by engaging with foreign Missions based in New Delhi as well as through our missions in foreign countries.

SD in close cooperation with various state governments is actively involved in promoting the external outreach of the various states of India.



## Counter Terrorism

In the wake of various incidence of terrorism that occurred in different parts of the world during the year, the issue of terrorism found prominent mention in various bilateral and multilateral meetings at all levels. During all such interactions, India strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated its commitment to combating the menace at global level. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented 11 point action-plan to counter terrorism globally at G-20 Summit held in Hamburg, Germany in July 2017. An India-European Union (EU) Joint Statement on cooperation in combating terrorism was issued at the fourteenth India-EU Summit held on 6 October 2017 in New Delhi.

India continued to hold structured consultations through Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) with various partner countries. India currently engages with senior interlocutors of twenty three nations and three regional groupings through the mechanism of the JWG-CT. The JWG-CT provide a forum for counter-terrorism cooperation enabling sharing of information, experience and assessments regarding global terrorism, training and capacity building including in relevant technologies and equipment, countering terrorist finance, strengthening of multilateral efforts in the fight against terrorism, and facilitating agency-to agency cooperation. During the period April to November 2017, India held meetings of the JWG-CT with Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil-Russia-

India-China-South Africa (BRICS) and the EU. The scheduled JWG meetings on CT up to March 2018 are with Egypt, Tunisia, France, Canada and USA.

As a founding member of Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), which was established in 2011, India regularly participates in the GCTF meetings. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) participated at a senior level in the 12th meeting of GCTF Coordination Committee and the 8th meeting of GCTF Ministerial Plenary held in New York, USA from 18-20 September 2017. India also participates regularly in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meetings, in which India is a member since 2010. MEA's representative participated in FATF meetings held in Spain from 17-23 June 2017 and in Argentina from 29 October-3 November 2017. Upcoming FATF Plenary and working group meeting is planned at Paris from 18-23 February 2018.

India co-chaired the 15th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) Intersessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) held in Indonesia in April 2017, the 5th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes held in Vientiane in May 2017 and voiced strong concerns regarding the scourge of terrorism. Joint Secretary (CT) attended the 4th Aqaba Process Meeting on West Africa held on 2-3 December 2017 at Aqaba, Jordan, convened by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan.

## Global Cyber Issues

During the year 2017, bilateral cyber dialogues were held with Australia (July), European Union(August), Japan(August), New Zealand (November) and Germany (December) where potential areas of cooperation were identified and views on cyber issues, currently being debated globally, were exchanged in order to align our respective national positions and to collectively pursue our mutual interests.

Apart from this, India has been actively participating in and contributing to Cyber Conferences and Conventions to voice its views, shape global cyber policies discourses and strengthen cyber security. Further, in keeping with its commitment to a multi-stakeholder model of internet governance, India has been engaging actively with the private sector, civil society and academia to shape and strategise cyber policy. In this connection, it held its first Track 1.5 dialogue with UK in September 2017 and participated in the Joint Working Group-Public Private Partnership meetings conducted by National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). MEA contributed significantly in the Committee on Norms Building, an exercise coordinated by the NSCS to finalise India's position on the norms of responsible State behaviour of states.

In recognition of the claim staked by India for a bigger role in International Cyber Policy issues, India hosted the 5th Edition of the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS 2017) which saw participation by over 3,500 delegates from more than 135 countries, present either physically or virtually, including more than thirty Ministerial delegations, making it the largest GCCS till date. With this, India has joined the exclusive club of Sextet Countries comprising of UK, South Korea, Netherlands, Hungary and USA which has hosted GCCS, a prestigious global event where international leaders, policy makers, industry experts, think tanks, cyber wizards etc gather to deliberate on issues and challenges for optimally using cyberspace, establish internationally agreed "rules of the road" for behaviour in cyberspace and create a more focused dialogue between all those with a stake in the Internet. MEA steered three sessions on various aspects of Cyber Diplomacy in GCCS 2017, conceptualized and initiated conversation on a New Global Cyber Order, similar to the World Economic Order, a

term which is now gaining currency on cyber discussions in various fora.

The increasing clout and contribution of India is also reflected in its presence as a co-chair of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), a conglomeration of sixty organisations and states which work together on practical initiatives to strengthen global cyber capacity building. GFCE held its annual meeting on the sidelines of GCCS 2017 in New Delhi and came out with the Delhi Communiqué where the global Agenda for Cyber capacity building was unveiled. Similarly, as part of the Organising Committee, MEA contributed to the hosting of the 15th Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Teams (APCERT) Annual general Meeting and Conference, a regional community of Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and Computer Security Incidence Response Teams (CSIRTs) to strengthen Cyber Security initiatives in the Region.

India also participated in the deliberations of the 5th UNGGE as a member along with experts from twenty-four other countries to study issues related to responsible behaviour of states and applicability of international law to the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) with a view to promoting common understanding and exploring possible cooperative measures to address these issues. It is also an active member of the select group of thirty-five countries of the Working Group for Enhanced Cooperation under United Nation Committee on Science and Technology under World Summit for Information Society which is currently debating on ways and means to enhance international cooperation for the implementation of the Tunis Agenda.

Apart from these engagements, India participated in the deliberations on Conference by the ASEAN-ARF where it supported the establishment of an open ended Working Group on Confidence building measures among the member states, ICANN to promote India's role in Internet Governance structures and UNODC to deliberate on a new International Convention on Cyber Crime and at BRICS forum to forge common positions on cyber issues.

## Boundary Cell

The Boundary Cell actively participated in various inter-ministerial and joint boundary meetings pertaining to international boundaries of India, including maritime boundaries. The Boundary Cell dealt with requests by research scholars for access to records pertaining to classified and

sensitive information. The Cell also responded to Right To Information (RTI) queries. The Cell continued to prepare consolidated overall requirements of budget grant and monitor the same pertaining to the maintenance, delineations, and demarcation of International Boundaries.



# Policy Planning And Research

## Research Papers and Policy Briefs

In keeping with its mandate, the Division prepared research papers and policy briefs on a wide range of issues and developments across the world. The Division examined global developments and trends in international relations, emergent issues and, prepared relevant assessments. In addition, daily reports, issue briefs and situation reports were disseminated within the Ministry as well as to Indian Missions abroad.

Initiatives taken by the Division include:

- Organizing discussions with domain specialists from think tanks and academia and, liaison with think tanks and institutions on organization of seminars and discussions on topical issues.
- Participation of the Division in various seminars/conferences conducted by think tanks in different parts of India. A monthly compendium of the proceedings of such events is thereafter disseminated within the Ministry and to Missions abroad.
- Monitoring global developments and news reports and compilation of Daily Reports.
- Organize in-house presentations by visiting Heads of Missions.
- Organize meetings with leading scholars, authors and representatives of think-tanks, academic institutes from India as well as from abroad on topical issues.
- Organising 'Ambassador Lecture Series' by Heads of Missions posted in New Delhi on topical issues.

## Policy Planning Dialogues

As part of its mandate, policy planning dialogues were held with partner countries as detailed below:

- Policy Planning Dialogue with Germany on 26 April 2017 in Berlin.
- Policy Planning Dialogue with France on 15 January 2018 in New Delhi.

- Policy Planning Dialogue with Indonesia on 15 January 2018 in New Delhi.

The third edition of the BRICS Policy Planning Dialogue was held in Beijing on 21 July 2017. This was in furtherance of the objectives of previous BRICS Policy Planning Dialogues i.e. sharing views, perspectives, and approaches on myriad policy formulations. The Dialogue was attended by counterparts from all BRICS countries and it has emerged as a useful mechanism for exchange of views and perspectives on foreign policy strategies and approaches of BRICS members.

The Division also undertook policy planning dialogues in Track 1.5 format alongside Track 2.0 interactions with delegations from South Korea, France, Australia, Israel, and the United States.

## Participation in Major International Conferences

The Division facilitated India's participation in various international conferences, including the Manama Dialogue in Manama, Bahrain (8-10 December 2017), Chatham House Conference in London, the United Kingdom (23 & 24 October 2017), IISS-NESA South Asia Security Conference in Muscat, Oman (13-15 October 2017), and the Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka (31 August & 1 September 2017). The PP&R Division also facilitated India's participation in the Trilateral Commission's Annual Meeting in Singapore (23-25 March 2018) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Tokyo, Japan (24-26 November 2017).

## Organizing of Conferences and Seminars

The PP&R Division intensified its work with Indian think-tanks in order to organize international conferences and seminars in different locations in India. A list of seminars, conferences, meetings, and studies partially or wholly funded by the Division, is given in Appendix No.

The Raisina Dialogue is the MEA's flagship geopolitical and geostrategic conference organized by the PP&R Division in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

The third edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held on 17-19 January 2018.



*Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar at the 3rd edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on 18 January 2018*

The MEA's flagship geoeconomic dialogue is the Gateway of India Dialogue conducted by the PP&R Division in partnership with the Gateway House think-tank based in Mumbai. The third edition is expected to be held on 12 & 13 March 2018.

The second edition of the Indian Ocean Conference was held on 31 August and 1 September 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The partner institutions were India Foundation, RSIS, Singapore, and NIFS, Colombo – both research and study centres. The theme of the conference was “Peace, progress and prosperity” and saw participation from around thirty five countries. The conference was co-chaired by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj.

The Division collaborated with the Ananta Aspen Centre in organising the inaugural edition of the India-US Forum in New Delhi on 31 July and 1 August 2017. EAM delivered the inaugural address. The Forum brought together more than forty speakers and over one hundred participants including Members of India's Parliament and the US Congress, business and political leaders, eminent media personalities, senior officials and thought-leaders. The discussions were wide-ranging and also covered various dimensions of the multifaceted India-US relationship. Issues covered included

political and trade relations, security cooperation, innovation, technology, environment and energy.

The Division, partnering with the Vidya Prasarak Mandal (VPM) Centre for International Studies, organized the National Seminar on Act East Policy and Primary Goals of Economic Development, Democracy, and National Security in Mumbai from 27 April to 29 April 2017.

The third Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue on Strategic and Security Issues was conducted by the Division in partnership with the Delhi Policy Group on 30 May 2017 in Tokyo. The sixteenth India-South Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue was organized by the Division, again partnering with the Ananta Aspen Centre, in New Delhi on 30 November and 1 December 2017.

## **Augmenting Human and Financial Resources**

Under its revised mandate, the Division continued to strengthen its human and financial resources. The year 2017-18 saw a significant increase in the financial outlay for organising seminars and conferences enabling the PP&R Division to expand its activities as mentioned. The mandate pertaining to attracting more domain specialists was pursued with the recruitment of three consultants. The number of specialists on International Relations within the Division in the form of Consultants now stands at eight.

## Protocol

Protocol Division coordinated the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2017 in Bengaluru in January 2017, Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January 2017 in Ahmedabad, Africa Development Bank Annual Meeting in Gandhinagar in May 2017, Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe's visit to Ahmedabad in September 2017, Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 in New Delhi, World Food India from 3-5 November 2017 in New Delhi and Global Entrepreneurship Summit in November 2017 in Hyderabad.

Protocol - I handled 385 entertainment functions (as on 13 December 2017) and facilitated an average of 155 requests per week for airport passes, lounges (ceremonial and reserved) and exemption from frisking.

The Second National Protocol Conference was organized by the Protocol Division on 21 August 2017 in Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the Minister of State Gen. (Dr.) General V. K. Singh (Retd.). All Protocol Departments of States and Union Territories were invited to this Conference to deliberate on the interface between the Ministry of External Affairs and different States/Union Territories during the visits of foreign dignitaries and the handling of growing foreign representation through Embassies/Consulates in the country. Eighty-three delegates participated in the Conference.

### Classifications and numbers of visits

Visit Head	Number
State Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and Equivalent	16
Official/Working Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and Equivalent	21
Private/Transit Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and Equivalent	7
Official Visits by Foreign Ministers and Equivalent	40
Outgoing Visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister	11
Outgoing Visits of Minister of External Affairs	06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>

### Calendar of Visits

#### State Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and Equivalent

S N	Dignitary	Dates
•	State Visit of Prime Minister of Portugal	7 – 13 January 2017
•	State Visit of President of Kenya	10 – 12 January 2017
•	State Visit of Crown Prince of UAE (Chief Guest for the Republic Day – 2017)	24 – 26 January 2017
•	State Visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia	30 March – 4 April 2017
•	State Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh	7 – 10 April 2017
•	State Visit of Prime Minister of Australia	9 – 12 April 2017

S N	Dignitary	Dates
1	State Visit of President of Nepal	17 – 21 April 2017
2	State Visit of President of Cyprus	28 April 2017
3	State Visit of President of Turkey	30 April – 1 May 2017
4	State Visit of President of Palestine	14 – 17 May 2017
5	State Visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius	26 – 28 May 2017
6	State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal	23 – 27 August 2017
7	State Visit of President of Switzerland	30 August – 1 September 2017
8	State Visit of President of Belarus	11 & 12 September 2017
9	State visit of Prime Minister of Italy	29 & 30 October 2017
10	State visit of King of Belgium	5 – 11 November 2017

#### Official/Working Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and Equivalent

S N	Dignitary	Dates
1	Visit of Vice President of Suriname Chief Guest – PBD)	5 – 14 January 2017
2	Visit of Prime Minister of Serbia	9 – 12 January 2017
3	Visit of President of Rwanda	9 – 11 January 2017
4	Visit of Chief of Royal Court of Jordan	7 – 10 March 2017
5	Visit of the Prime Minister of Uganda Confederation of Indian Industry and Export Import Bank of India, CII- EXIM Bank Conclave)	7 – 13 March 2017
6	Visit of the King of Swaziland CII-EXIM Bank Conclave)	8 – 15 March 2017
7	Visit of European Union High Representative and Vice President of European Union	21 – 23 April 2017
8	Visit of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	25 – 29 April 2017
9	Visit of President of Senegal (African Development Bank, AfDB) Ahmadabad	22 & 23 May 2017
10	Visit of President of Benin (AfDB) Ahmadabad	22 & 23 May 2017
11	Visit of Vice President of Cote d'Ivoire (AfDB) Ahmadabad	20 – 24 May 2017
12	Visit of Vice President of Comoros (AfDB) Ahmadabad	24 – 28 May 2017
13	Visit of Prime Minister of Japan	13 & 14 September 2017
14	Visit of Chief Executive of Afghanistan	28 September – 3 October 2017
15	Visit of President of European Council	5 – 7 October 2017
16	Visit of President of European Commission	4 – 7 October 2017
17	Visit of President of Afghanistan	24 October 2017
18	Visit of King of Bhutan	31 October - 3 November 2017
19	Visit of Prime Minister of Latvia	2 – 6 November 2017
20	Visit of President of Armenia	2 – 4 November 2017
21	Visit of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	22 – 24 November 2017

**Private/Transit Visits by Head of State/ Head of Government/ Vice President and Equivalent**

S N	Dignitary	Dates
1	Visit of Prime Minister of Bhutan (Assam)	30 March – 1 April 2017
2.	Private Visit of the Emir of Kuwait	25 June – 5 July 2017
3.	Visit of Emir of Sharjah	24 – 28 September 2017
4.	Visit of CEO of Afghanistan	29 & 30 November 2017
5.	Visit of Second Vice President of Afghanistan	9 – 13 December 2017
6.	Visit of Vice President of Equatorial Guinea	13 – 19 December 2017
7.	Visit of King of Lesotho	2 January 2018

**Official Visits by Foreign Ministers and Equivalent**

S N	Dignitary	Dates
1	Visit of Foreign Minister of France	8 – 12 January 2017
2	Visit of Foreign Minister of Nepal	16 – 18 January 2017
3	Visit of Foreign Minister of UK	18 – 20 January 2017
4	Visit of Princess of Thailand	30 March 2017
5	Visit of Foreign Minister of Oman	2 & 3 April 2017
6	Visit of Foreign Minister of Netherlands	6 – 10 May 2017
7	Visit of Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka	6 & 7 June 2017
8	Visit of the Foreign Minister of Gabon	18 – 21 June 2017
9	Visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam	3 – 6 July 2017
10	Visit of Foreign Minister of Nepal	2 – 4 July 2017
11	Visit of Foreign Minister of Yemen	10 – 13 July 2017
12	Visit of Princess of Thailand	17 & 18 July 2017
13	Visit of Foreign Minister of Australia	18 & 19 July 2017
14	Visit of Foreign Minister of Iraq	24 – 27 July 2017
15	Visit of Foreign Minister of Somalia	31 July – 4 August 2017
16	Visit of MOS of Foreign Affairs of UAE	9 & 10 August 2017
17	Visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan	13 – 15 August 2017
18	Visit of Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan	20 – 24 August 2017
19	Foreign Minister of Qatar	25 & 26 August 2017
20	Visit of Foreign Minister of Slovak Republic and President-elect of UN General Assembly	27 – 29 August 2017
21	Visit of Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka	8 – 10 September 2017
22	Visit of Foreign Minister of Afghanistan	10 – 12 September 2017



S N	Dignitary	Dates
23	Visit of Foreign Minister of Ukraine	5 – 7 October 2017
24	Visit of Foreign Minister of Lithuania	8 – 10 October 2017
25	Visit of Foreign Minister of Jamaica	8 – 12 October 2017
26	Visit of Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea	15 – 17 October 2017
27	Visit of Secretary of State of United States of America	24 – 26 October 2017
28	Visit of Foreign Minister of Tunisia	28 – 31 October 2017
29	Visit of Foreign Minister of Singapore	31 October – 2 November 2017
30	Visit of Foreign Minister of Guinea	6 & 7 November 2017
31	Visit of Foreign Minister of Colombia	7 – 9 November 2017
32	Visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall	8 & 9 November 2017
33	Visit of Foreign Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo	9 & 10 November 2017
34	Visit of Foreign Minister of France	16 & 17 November 2017
35	Visit of Foreign Minister of Finland	22 – 25 November 2017
36	Visit of Foreign Minister of Greece	26 – 28 November 2017
37	Visit of Foreign Minister of Denmark	26 – 30 November 2017
38	Visit of Foreign Minister of Russia	10 & 11 December 2017
39	Visit of Foreign Minister of China	10 – 12 December 2017
40	Visit of Secretary General of Commonwealth	10 – 16 December 2017

### Outgoing Visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister

S N	Dignitary	Dates
1	Vice President to Rwanda and Uganda	19 – 23 February 2017
2	Vice President to Indonesia (IORA Summit)	6 & 7 March 2017
3	Vice President to Armenia and Poland	24 – 29 April 2017
4	Visit of Prime Minister to Sri Lanka	11 & 12 May 2017
5	Visit of Prime Minister to Germany, Russia, Spain and France	29 May – 3 June 2017
6	Visit of Prime Minister to Kazakhstan (SCO Summit)	8 & 9 June 2017
7	Visit of Prime Minister to Portugal, United States of America and Netherlands	24 – 27 June 2017
8	Visit of Prime Minister to Israel and Germany (G-20 Summit)	4 – 8 July 2017
9	Visit of Prime Minister to China (BRICS Summit) and Myanmar	3 – 7 September 2017
10	Visit of President to Djibouti & Ethiopia	3 – 6 October 2017
11	Visit of Prime Minister to Philippines	12 – 14 November 2017

### Outgoing Visits of Minister of External Affairs

1.	Kathmandu, Nepal	10 & 11 August 2017
2.	Colombo, Sri Lanka	31 August & 1 September 2017
3.	Vladivostok, Russia	4 - 7 September 2017
4.	New York City, United States	16 - 25 September 2017
5.	Dhaka, Bangladesh	22 & 23 October 2017
6.	Sochi, Russia	29 November - 2 December 2017

#### Protocol – III

Thirty-one Ambassadors/High Commissioners presented their credentials in 2017. Twenty Ambassadors/High Commissioners departed from India on the completion of their tenure of duties. 125 new local posts were created in foreign Diplomatic Missions.

### Credential Presentation by Foreign Heads of Mission in Year 2017

Sl No.	Mission	Name of Ambassador/ High Commissioner	Date of Credential Presentation
5.	Tunisia	Ambassador Mr. Nejmeddine Lakhel	15 February 2017
6.	Morocco	Ambassador Mr. Mohamed Maliki	15 February 2017
7.	Yemen	Ambassador Mr. Abdulmalik Abdullah Al-Eryani	15 February 2017
8.	Zambia	High Commissioner Ms. Judith Kangoma Kapijimpanga	15 February 2017
9.	Turkey	Ambassador Mr. Sakir Ozkan Torunlar	29 March 2017
10.	New Zealand	High Commissioner Ms. Joanna Kempkers	29 March 2017
11.	Apostolic Nunciature (Holy See)	Ambassador Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro	29 March 2017
12.	Republic of Seychelles	High Commissioner Mr. Philippe Le Gall	29 March 2017
13.	Malaysia	High Commissioner Mr. Dato' Hidayat Abdul Hamid	29 March 2017
14.	Republic of Costa Rica	Ambassador Ms. Mariela Cruz Alvarez	17 May 2017
15.	Thailand	Ambassador Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi	17 May 2017
16.	Spain	Ambassador Mr. Jose Ramon Baranano Fernandez	17 May 2017
17.	Malawi	High Commissioner Mr. George C. Mkondiwa	23 August 2017
18.	Uzbekistan	Ambassador Mr. Farhod Arziev	23 August 2017
19.	Austria	Ambassador Mrs. Brigitte Öppinger Walchshofer	23 August 2017

Sl No.	Mission	Name of Ambassador/ High Commissioner	Date of Credential Presentation
20.	Indonesia	Ambassador Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro	23 August 2017
21.	Tanzania	High Commissioner Mr. Baraka Haran Luvanda	19 September 2017
22.	Ghana	High Commissioner Mr. Michael Nii Nortey Oquaye	19 September 2017
23.	Burundi	Ambassador Ms. Stella Budiriganya	19 September 2017
24.	Pakistan	High Commissioner Mr. Sohail Mahmood	19 September 2017
25.	Croatia	Ambassador Mr. Petar Ljubicic	26 October 2017
26.	Russia	Ambassador Mr. Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev	26 October 2017
27.	Moldova (resident at Baku)	Ambassador Mr. Gheorghe Leuc	26 October 2017
28.	The Gambia	Ambassador Ms. Jainaba Jagne	26 October 2017
29.	Sweden	Ambassador Mr. Klas Molin	23 November 2017
30.	Nigeria	High Commissioner Mr. Chris Sunday Eze	23 November 2017
31.	United States of America	Ambassador Mr. Kenneth Ian Juster	23 November 2017
32.	Uganda	High Commissioner Mrs. Akello Dinah Grace	22 December 2017
33.	Myanmar	Ambassador Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung	22 December 2017
34.	Colombia	Ambassador Mrs. Clemencia Forero-Ucrós	22 December 2017
35.	Poland	Ambassador Mr. Adam Burakowski	22 December 2017

### Final Departure Status of Foreign Heads of Mission in Year 2017

Sl. No.	Mission	Name of Head of Mission	Final Departure Date
•	United States of America	Ambassador Mr. Richard R. Verma	20 January 2017
•	Ghana	High Commissioner Mr. Samuel P. Yalley	31 January 2017
•	Uruguay	Ambassador Mr. Carlos Ernesto Orlando Bonet	1 February 2017
•	Indonesia	Ambassador Mr. Rizali Wilmar Indrakesuma	6 February 2017
•	Malawi	High Commissioner Dr. Mbuya Isaac Munlo	15 February 2017
•	Papua New Guinea	High Commissioner Mr. Tarcisius Eri	26 March 2017
•	Poland	Ambassador Mr. Tomasz Lukaszuk	1 June 2017

### Final Departure Status of Foreign Heads of Mission in Year 2017

Sl. No.	Mission	Name of Head of Mission	Final Departure Date
•	Republic of Korea	Ambassador Mr. Cho Hyun	1 June 2017
•	Sweden	Ambassador Mr. Herald Sandberg	19 June 2017
•	Republic of Congo	Ambassador Mr. Felix Ngoma	27 June 2017
•	Burundi	Ambassador Ms. Katabarumwe Regine	5 July 2017
•	Pakistan	High Commissioner Mr. Abdul Bashit	2 August 2017
•	Uganda	High Commissioner Ms. Elizabeth Napeyok	1 September 2017
•	Colombia	Ambassador Mrs. Monica Lanzetta Mutis	10 September 2017
•	Libya	Ambassador Dr. Ali A.S. Al-Isawi	10 October 2017
•	Nepal	Ambassador Mr. Deep Kumar Upadhyaya	20 October 2017
•	Myanmar	Ambassador Mr. Maung Wai	9 November 2017
•	Argentina	Ambassador Ms. Maria Cristina Ueltschi	12 November 2017
•	Guinea	Ambassador Mr. Alexandre Cece Loua	15 November 2017
•	Iraq	Ambassador Mr. Fakhri Hassan Mahdi Al-Issa	15 December 2017

### List of Resident Missions/Trade offices/Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions/Honorary Consulates approved during the year 2017

6. Resident Missions: Sierra Leone
7. Trade Offices:
  3. Republic of Korea                      Kolkata
8. Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions:
  1. Netherlands              Bengaluru (Upgraded from Trade Office)
  2. Bhutan                      Guwahati
9. Honorary Consulates General/Honorary Consulates:
  4. Kazakhstan                      Chennai
  5. Belgium                      Ahmedabad
  6. Slovak Republic              Bengaluru

7.	Uganda	Mumbai
8.	DR Congo	Mumbai
9.	Austria	Chennai
10.	Estonia	Kolkata
11.	Portugal	Mumbai
12.	Maldives	Kolkata
13.	Maldives	Chennai
14.	Fiji	Chennai
15.	Netherlands	Lucknow
16.	Austria	Mumbai
17.	Republic of Korea	Hyderabad
18.	Iceland	Kolkata
19.	Spain	Chennai
20.	Nauru	New Delhi
21.	Ireland	Mumbai
22.	Mongolia	Chennai
23.	Mongolia	Kolkata
24.	Mongolia	Bengaluru
25.	Poland	Bengaluru
26.	Chile	Bengaluru
27.	Myanmar	Chennai
28.	Niger	Kolkata
29.	Denmark	Chennai
30.	Guatemala	Chennai
31.	Belarus	Mumbai

## Consular, Passport and Visa Services

The Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division of the Ministry provides passport services through the Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its network of Passport Offices, Passport Seva Kendras (PSK), and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) and consular, visa and passport services to overseas Indian/foreign nationals through the Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad.

### Passport Services

The year 2017 marked a watershed in the history of passport delivery in the country as the Passports Act, 1967 completed 50 years of its existence. A special event was organized to mark the occasion on 23 June 2017 at which a Commemorative Stamp and First Day Cover were released by the Department of Posts.

The issuance of passports has emerged as one of the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric services 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, Emergency Certificates for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates and Line of Control Travel Permits in Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through the Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its all-India network of 37 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 92 PSKs in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 60 POPSKs (in association with Ministry of Communications) as extended arms of the Passport Offices. For Indians living abroad, passports, Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards, Emergency Certificates and other miscellaneous consular services, apart from attestation of consular documents, are rendered by 184 Indian Embassies/Consulates abroad.

### Passport Seva Project

The Passport Seva Project (PSP), an ambitious Mission Mode Project, is being successfully run in the Public-

Private Partnership (PPP) mode and as part of the National e-Governance Plan with M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as the Service Provider. The Project has completed five and half years of its successful operations.

Besides the PSKs and the POPSKs, 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 Police systems of the State and Union Territories for verification of applicants' personal particulars, with India Post for postal delivery and with India Security Press (ISP), Nashik, for supply of passport booklets. The system has also been integrated across the country with the Aadhar database since August 2015. The Project also provides real time up-to-date information to 184 Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad as well as the immigration authorities. An SMS/email alert is sent to applicant as soon as the passport is dispatched.

As on 31 December 2017, 5.44 crore passport service related applications have been processed and 5.34 crore services rendered through the PSP system. More than 60,000 appointments at the PSKs and 4,000 applications at the POPSKs are being released daily against which the footfall is over 50,000.

### Passport India Portal

An online portal [passportindia.gov.in](http://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 access anytime and anywhere. 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. There are more than 2 crore daily hits on the portal.

## Growth in Passport Services

Over the last six years, there has been an increase in the scope and volume of passport services. During 2017, the Ministry processed approximately 1.17 crore passport and passport related service applications compared to 98.4 lakhs in 2016 marking a growth of nearly 19%. The Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 1,17,34,020 passport and passport related service applications including Police Clearance Certificates, against which 1,15,82,367 passports and related documents were issued [inclusive of 2665 Diplomatic passports, 29022 Official passports, 5111 Surrender Certificates (SC), 2078 Identity Certificates (IC) and 2568 Line of Control (LoC) applications]. 184 Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad issued approximately 15.13 lakh passports, Emergency Certificates and other passport related miscellaneous services. Thus, the Government of India, in total, issued 1.31 crore passport and other related services in the year 2017 (Appendix VII). As on 31 December 2017, over 7.38 crore citizens held valid passports. India today is placed third behind China and the United States in terms of global issuance of passport.

The revenue of the Government on account of passport fees has registered significant growth. The total revenue generated from all passport services till November 2017 was ₹1697.69 crore as compared to ₹1654.72 crore in 2016-17.

## Noticeable Improvements in Service Delivery

There has been significant improvement in passport service delivery in the country. During 2017, 44% of the normal passports were issued within 3 days; 82% within 7 days; 94% within 14 days; 97% within 21 days and 98% within 30 days (excluding the time taken for police verification). If the police verification time is included in the end-to-end delivery process, 82% of normal passports were issued within a month (79% in 2016).

In case of Tatkaal passports, 47% were issued on the same day; 81% within 2 days and 94% within 3 days (up from 85% in 2016).

The other notable features were:

- Top 5 States in terms of number of passport applications received were Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh which accounted for more than 51% of the total applications.

- Top 5 Passport Offices in terms of number of applications received were: Bengaluru, Lucknow, Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad.
- Top 5 districts in terms of number of applications received (excluding metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai) were: Pune, Mallapuram, Ahmedabad, Thane and Jalandhar.

## Outreach of Passport Services

Upto May 2014, there were 77 PSK operating in the country. The present Government has announced 16 more PSK including all the North Eastern States. Out of these, 15 PSK, including in all the North Eastern States, have become operational. One more PSK at Siliguri in West Bengal is scheduled to be inaugurated shortly.

The Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Ministry of Communications has taken an innovative initiative to open Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices in the country to be known as 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). The Ministry has announced the opening of 251 POPSKs. Out of these 60 POPSKs have become operational till 31 January 2018 (Appendix VIII). Nearly 5 lakh passport applications have been processed at these POPSKs during 2017. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the remaining locations like preparation of the site, procurement of IT and non-IT equipment for setting up of the remaining POPSK.

With the addition of 251 POPSKs, the total number of Passport Seva Kendras including POPSKs that would be added by the present Government for the benefit of the citizens would be 267. The Government intends to open POPSK in the HPO in the country in such a manner that there is a Passport Seva Kendra available within a radius of 50 km of every HPO.

A Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) at Indore was inaugurated on 22 February 2017 by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker of Lok Sabha, in the gracious presence of Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, and Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, and other dignitaries.

The PSK at Udaipur was inaugurated on 2 June 2017 by MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) in the gracious presence of Members of Parliament Shri Arjun Lal Meena, Shri C.P. Joshi and Shri Amril Lal Meena, and several other dignitaries.

The PSK at Solapur was inaugurated on 29 July 2017 by MoS Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) in the gracious presence of several dignitaries.

## Central Passport Organization

The Central Passport Organization (CPO) 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 CPO Cadre is 2697 as on 31 December 2017. 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 are filled by faster promotion with necessary amendments/downgrading of posts/relaxation in eligibility service in the Recruitment Rules. The Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme (PLIS) is expected 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 2017, 34 officials (6 Assistant Superintendents, 3 Stenographers, 1 Senior Passport Assistant, 3 Junior Passport Assistants, 18 Office Assistants and 3 Drivers) have been granted Modified Assured Career Progressive Scheme (MACPS) by the DPC held on 23.03.2017, 04.09.2017 and 12.09.2017. 41 Officials (7 Assistant Superintendents and 34 Junior Passport Assistants) in various grades have been confirmed in service by the DPC held on 19.01.2017 and 16.02.2017. Compassionate Appointment of 4 Junior Passport Assistants and 5 Office Assistants has been made in the CPO on 27 September 2017.

## Training of CPO officials and creation of HRD Cell

With a view to facilitating quality service delivery of passports, training to the officials of the CPO was initiated in 2016 to acquaint them with the latest updates on the Passports Act, Rules and procedures, other domain specific topics relating to administration of passport services, general rules/ procedures

relating to finance/ service matters, Conduct Rules, and soft skills. Training is being assigned priority and an HRD Cell was created in March 2017 in the CPV Division to cater to the training requirements of the CPO officials.

Training programmes for 74 directly recruited Assistant Superintendents and 342 Junior Passport Assistants were organized in batches during 2016-17. 148 Superintendents were trained between July and October 2017 in four batches and 202 Assistant Superintendents were trained between November 2017 and January 2018 in four batches. Training programmes for 167 Senior Passport Assistants is scheduled to be held in four batches from March to May 2018. The training programmes are for a week and organized at the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra of the Ministry.

## Physical Infrastructure

Out of the 37 Passport Offices, 21 are operating from buildings owned by the Government and the remaining 16 are functioning out of rented buildings. In accordance with the policy of the Ministry to shift all Passport Offices into Government owned buildings, efforts are being made to acquire plots of land to construct state-of-the-art buildings to house the Passport Offices.

The Ministry integrated all its offices in Maharashtra into a single building – the "Videsh Bhavan" - for effective management of its engagement with the State Government of Maharashtra. It was inaugurated on 27 August 2017 by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, at a function in Mumbai presided over by Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and in the august presence of Gen (Retd.) Dr. V. K. Singh, MoS for External Affairs, and Shri Praful Patel, Administrator of the Union Territory of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

The "Videsh Bhavan" is located at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai. It is a modern, fully equipped, state of the art office with all public amenities. The "Videsh Bhavan" at Mumbai is the first integrated office complex of the Ministry of External Affairs established in any State of India.

Four offices of MEA in Mumbai, namely, (i) Passport Office, (ii) Office of the Protector of Emigrants, (iii) Office of the Regional Director of ICCR, and (iv) Branch Secretariat of MEA, were integrated and started functioning from the newly constructed "Videsh Bhavan". The Passport Office at Thane was merged with the Passport Office at Mumbai and the merged offices are functioning at the "Videsh Bhavan". The



Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) at Thane, Thane-II and Nashik, however, continue to function from the existing premises of these PSKs but have been brought under the administrative jurisdiction of the Passport Office at Mumbai.

The Ministry has so far acquired plots of land at eight places viz. Amritsar, Bhopal, Dehradun, Guwahati, Jalandhar, Kolkata, Pune and Srinagar. The construction work is in progress at Jalandhar and Amritsar.

## Police Verification

Police Verification (PV) plays an important role in the timely issuance of passports. The Ministry engaged closely with the Police Departments across States/UT to speed up police verification. The all-India average for the number of days taken to complete the police verification is 23 and about 74% of the PVs get completed within the desired time limit of 21 days. Some States/UT have consistently maintained low PV processing times. For example, under the new system, Telangana completed police verification in 5 days on an average, followed by Andhra Pradesh (9 days) and Haryana (9 days), Gujarat (11 days), Chandigarh (13 days), Delhi (13 days) and Goa (13 days). In terms of RPOs, average police verification days were, Hyderabad (5 days), Vijayawada (8 days), Visakhapatnam (10 days), Surat (11 days), and Ahmedabad (12 days). Constant efforts by the Ministry have resulted in more and more Districts switching over to the preferred District Police Headquarters (DPHQ) Verification Model. So far, 726 Police Districts have adopted the new system and are working on the District model.

The Ministry has launched the "mPassport Police" app for speedy submission of Police Verification Report (PVR). The mobile application would facilitate the field verification police officers to capture the PVR into the system digitally. With the launch of this application, the need to download and print the physical Personal Particulars Form and questionnaire would no longer be required by the police officers, resulting in paperless end-to-end digital flow of the PVR process. This would further bring down the time required for completion of PVR within the desired time limit of 21 days, resulting in easing getting passport and other related services by the citizens accordingly. 53 DPHQs were using mPassport mobile application as on 31 December 2017. Till 31 December 2017, a total of 7,63,285 applications have been submitted through the mobile app.

## Functional Enhancements/ Simplification of Procedures for realizing Minimum Government Maximum Governance

### Out of turn issue of passport under Tatkaal scheme

The Ministry announced a new Tatkaal scheme in which the Verification Certificate required was done away with. If an applicant of the age of 18 years and above desires to obtain a passport under the Tatkaal Scheme, besides the Aadhaar Card/ letter/ e-Aadhaar containing the 12 digit Aadhaar number/ 28-digit Aadhaar Enrolment ID printed on the Aadhaar Enrolment Slip issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a self-declaration prescribed in Annexure-E of the Passport Rules, 1980, and the prescribed Tatkaal fee, any two documents out of the following twelve listed below shall be submitted:

- (i) Electors Photo Identify Card (EPIC)
- (ii) Service Photo Identity card issued by State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, local bodies or Public Limited Companies
- (iii) SC/ST/OBC Certificate
- (iv) Arms Licence
- (v) Pension Document such as Ex-servicemen's Pension Book/ Pension Payment order, ex-servicemen's widow /dependent Certificate, Old Age Pension Order
- (vi) Self-Passport (unrevoked and undamaged)
- (vii) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card
- (viii) Bank/Kisan/Post Office Passbook
- (ix) Student Photo Identity Card issued by an Educational Institution;
- (x) Driving Licence (valid and within the jurisdiction of State of submission of applicant)
- (xi) Birth Certificate issued under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act.
- (xii) Ration Card

All applicants seeking a passport out of turn under the TATKAAL scheme are required to submit their applications, other documents, if any, and fee as prescribed. No proof of

urgency is required for out of turn issue of passport under Tatkaal scheme. Post Police Verification shall be done in all the cases of issue of passport under Tatkaal scheme. In all the cases of Tatkaal scheme where the applicant is paying an additional Tatkaal fee, the passport, subject to the satisfaction of the Passport Authority, will preferably be issued within a period of three working days from the date of submission of application.

### **Out of turn issue of fresh passport under normal scheme without paying any additional tatkaal fee**

If an applicant applies for a new passport under the Normal scheme and desires to obtain the passport on out of turn basis without paying the additional Tatkaal fees, besides the Aadhaar Card/ letter/ e-Aadhaar containing the 12 digit Aadhaar number/ 28-digit Aadhaar Enrolment ID printed on the Aadhaar Enrolment Slip issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), and a self-declaration prescribed in Annexure-E of the Passport Rules, 1980, any two of the twelve documents listed below must be submitted:

- (i) Electors Photo Identify Card (EPIC)
- (ii) Service Photo Identity card issued by State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, local bodies or Public Limited Companies
- (iii) SC/ ST/ OBC Certificate
- (iv) Arms Licence
- (v) Pension Document such as Ex-servicemen's Pension Book/ Pension Payment order, ex-servicemen's widow /dependent Certificate, Old Age Pension Order
- (vi) Self-Passport (unrevoked and undamaged)
- (vii) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card
- (viii) Bank/Kisan/Post Office Passbook
- (ix) Student Photo Identity Card issued by an Educational Institution;
- (x) Driving Licence (valid and within the jurisdiction of State of submission of applicant)
- (xi) Birth Certificate issued under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act.
- (xii) Ration Card

Post Police Verification shall be done in all cases of issue of passport under this Scheme. There shall be no additional fee

payable by the passport applicant to avail this Scheme. If such an applicant seeks to obtain passport under Tatkaal Scheme by submitting the two out of the twelve documents mentioned in Para 3(a) above, declaration in the form of Annexure-E of the Passport Rules, 1980 and the prescribed additional Tatkaal fee, the application will be processed by the Passport Issuing Authority under Tatkaal scheme as the applicants applying under Tatkaal Scheme will be given priority in getting appointments and in the printing of passports.

Other changes made in Passport Rules

- A discount of ten percent in passport fee for fresh applications (and not for re-issue) has been provided to minors up to the age of 8 years and senior citizens (persons above the age of 60 years) with effect from 24 June, 2017.
- Ministry has approved the inclusion of the name of step parents in the passport.
- To obviate the hardships being faced by the applicants due to non-possession of registered rent agreement, unregistered rent agreement has been prescribed as valid address proof for issuance of passport.
- Exemption has been accorded to children below the age of 5 years and physically disabled persons without forelimbs from giving biometric details (10 fingerprints) to the passport authority, which is otherwise mandatory for every applicant.
- The following additional list of documents have been prescribed as proof of address for issue of passports:
- Allotment letter of the Government accommodation issued by the Estate Office/ Public Works Department of the Central/ State Government in respect of their employees.
- Duly certified/attested extract of the service record/book of the Government employees (serving/retired) or the bonafide certificate issued by the employer in respect of serving Government employees.
- Proof of address (POA) issued by the India Post, Department of Posts.

### **Passport Melas**

With a 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. Compared to 398 Passport Melas in 2015 and 138 in 2016, 444 Passport Melas have been organized

during 2017 at which 2,48,261 passport applications were processed.

### Passport Seva Camps

With an aim to cater to the ever increasing demand of passports and in order to reach out to people located far away from PSK, Passport Seva camps were organized at multiple locations. 280 Passport Seva Camps have been organized since its inception in September 2013 till December 2017 at various locations across the country from Leh in Jammu & Kashmir to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. More than one lakh applications have been processed at these Camps. It is yet another citizen-centric measure in taking IT- driven public services closer home. 17 Passport Seva Camps were organized in 2017, where 7,675 applications were processed.

### 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 at 15 select CSC locations in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand through the vast network of over one lakh Common Services Centers (CSC) 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. More than 6.39 lakh applicants have used these services since its introduction till 31 December 2017. During 2017, 2.75 Lakh applications were submitted online at these CSC.

### Student Connect Initiative

“Student Connect” initiative is aimed at getting more students to apply for their passports in time, and at the same time, make them aware of e-Governance initiatives. As part of Student Connect Initiative, extensive presentations were held at over 250 institutions and mailers were sent to around 1,000 institutions to spread awareness about the passport services to over 40 lakh students across the country. During 2017, student connect programmes were organized all over India.



*Student connect programme at Bhubaneswar on 25th November 2017 in presence of Mr. D. M. Mulay for more than 5000 students*

### Passport Services Overseas

During 2017, 184 Indian Embassies/Consulates abroad rendered approximately 15.13 lakh passport and other related services. Two countries, namely UAE and Saudi Arabia contributed to 33% of the total services abroad (Location-wise, Dubai, Riyadh, Kuwait, Muscat, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Doha accounted for 68% of the services). Top

ten countries from the perspective of passport services were: UAE, Saudi Arabia, US, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Bahrain, UK, and Canada. They collectively contributed to 85% of total passport services rendered abroad.

### Awards & Recognition

The Passport Seva Project has received recognition at the

highest levels in the Government, has been the subject of case studies; and has won several awards:-

- (i) On 8 February 2017, PSP received “The Open Group Award”, for Innovation and Excellence in Enterprise Architecture 2017 under the Public-Private Partnership category. This is Passport Seva’s first recognition in an international competition. The award was announced at the Open Group Conference 2017 held at Bengaluru. The Open Group is an International Consortium leading the development of open, vendor-neutral IT standards and certifications. These awards recognize organizations that have made significant and ongoing contributions for their advancement through the use of Enterprise Architecture.
- (iii) **GEMS of Digital India Awards 2017 – Jury’s Choice:** Passport Seva Project won the Gems of Digital India Award 2017 (Jury’s Choice) on 7 June 2017 for excellence in eGovernance at the award ceremony held in New Delhi. The Gems of India identified 1600 eGovernance initiatives across the country, and after a rigorous selection process, 41 Gems of Digital India were awarded. The 41 Gems of Digital India are an eclectic mix of digital platforms which are enabled by the leadership vision, resources, and structures put together

by multiple government institutions. They collectively give big hopes of a brighter future and a new India that redefines the responsiveness, accountability, transparency and citizen centrality of the government.

## Passport Seva Divas

The Fifth Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers Conference were organized by the MEA on 22-23 June 2017 at Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhavan, New Delhi. The high-level segment of the Conference was held on 23 June 2017. The event was graced by the External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications, Shri Manoj Sinha and Ministers of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) and Shri M. J. Akbar. The Ministry of External Affairs also celebrated on this occasion the completion of 50 years of the Passports Act 1967 which was enacted on 24 June 1967.

A Special Commemorative Stamp and First Day Cover were released by the Department of Posts to mark the occasion.

In recognition of outstanding services rendered by officials of Passport Offices, Service Provider, CPV Division and Police authorities, ‘Passport Seva Puraskars’ instituted by the Ministry of External Affairs were also awarded on Passport Seva Diwas.



*Minister of State for External Affairs, V. K Singh briefs on Integration of Passport Seva Project with Postal Department in New Delhi on 24 January 2017*



*External Affairs Minister at the event marking the completion of 50 years of Passport Act, 1967 on 23 June 2017*

## **Bilingual Passport Booklet**

The pre printed portion of the passport is already in Hindi and English languages. At present, the personal details of the applicant are printed in English language only. The Government has now decided to print personal details on passports in both Hindi and English languages.

## **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](http://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 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. Under this, 19,264 applications were received, out of which 19,203 have been disposed off. 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](http://www.pgportal.gov.in)) in which 13,571 grievances were received during 2017 (inclusive of pending 347 of 2016), out of which 13,405 cases have been disposed off.

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 in a timeframe.

To understand citizen sentiments and to receive feedback emanating from social media, the Passport Seva Project 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.

## Passport Adalats

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 2017.

## Haj Pilgrims: Special Drive

As decided by the Haj Committee of India (constituted under Act of Parliament no. 35 of 2002), only valid passport holders can apply for Haj. 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 officer; opening of facilitation counters, 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. During these inspections, there is exchange of views to improve procedural efficiency. After the inspections, Passport Offices are advised to take suitable follow up actions for better operational efficiency, to improve the service by clearing pendency and other bottlenecks in providing better services to the public. Passport Seva Kendras, in operation all over India, are also inspected under the Non-technical Serviced Level Agreements (SLA) on regular basis.

## Right to Information Act (RTI)

Central Public Information Officer and First Appellate Authority have been appointed in every Passport Office to provide information to applicants under the RTI Act. Central

Public Information Officers have also been appointed in the CPV Division. Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO is the First Appellate Authority for the matters related to the PSP Division in the Ministry only. From 17th June, 2014, a CPIO portal has been created online in all Passport Offices. A total of 863 online and postal RTI applications were disposed off by the concerned CPIOs (out of total 891 received) during 2017. During the same period, 132 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. Joint Secretary (PSP) & Chief Passport Officer is the Appellate Authority, for these cases. Monthly sessions are now being held. In pursuance of decision taken during the hearing, 59 Orders were issued to dispose of the appeals.

## 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 Embassies/Consulates abroad have been provided with machine readable passport printers. All Passport Offices issue machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

For the 162 Embassies/Consulates 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 1,89,234 passports during 2017 (inclusive of 3,381 for Andaman and Nicobar Islands) .

## E-Passports

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. The e-passports provide greater protection against fraudulent practices and tampering. These e-passports also prevent issue of multiple passports to a single person, thus, ensuring high level of security in passport

issuance. Indian Security Press (ISP) Nashik, has floated tenders for procurement of electronic contactless inlays to be embedded into the 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.

India was represented at 11th Edition of "Security Development World" (SDW) Conference & Exhibition held at London during the period 26-28 June 2017, at 24th meeting of ICAO's Public Key Directory (PKD) board members meeting, held at Shenzhen (China) during the period 11-12 October 2017 and at High Security Printing, Asia (HSP 2017) conference & Exhibition, held at Melbourne, Australia during the period 04-06 December, 2017.

## **Global Entry Programme (GEP)**

The Global Entry Programme (GEP) is a voluntary Programme that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travellers upon arrival in the USA. Participants may enter the US by using automated Kiosks located at select airports. The GEP is a non-reciprocal programme. The GEP facility has been provided to Indian Citizens since June 2017 by the USA.

## **Visit by the Parliamentary Committee to RPO/PSK/POPSK**

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:

The First Sub Committee of the Committee of Parliament on Official language made visits/inspected Passport Office, Trivandrum on 4 January 2017, PO, Kochi on 7 January 2017,

PO Kolkata on 3 March 2017, PO Amritsar on 3 March 2017, PO, Raipur on 8 September 2017 and PO, Ahmedabad on 12 September 2017 to review the implementation of Official language in the Ministry of External Affairs and its offices.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, visited POPSK located at Leh(Srinagar) and Passport Seva Kendras located at Amritsar(Punjab) and Lower Parel (Mumbai) during 29 April – 5 May 2017. The Committee reviewed the operations at the Passport Offices in these places in terms of services delivered to the citizens and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in recent years.

## **Public outreach**

As part of expanding its outreach, the CPV Division is bringing out a half-yearly bulletin "Passport Patrika", containing information on various passport related issues, in association with Service Provider. 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 35,77,576 visas during the period from 1 January 2017 to 30 November 2017. Apart from regular visas, 16,44,820 electronic Tourist Visas (e-TV)s/e-Visas were issued during the aforementioned period. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified, which includes computerization of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services that commenced in 2006. At present the visa work has been outsourced in sixty three Missions/Posts abroad.

In order to enhance the security environment of the visa issuance system, the Government of India decided to introduce biometric enrollment procedure for foreigners seeking visa to visit India in 2012, which was a part of the Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) project. This is a joint project of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The MHA is the nodal authority and the MEA is the implementing authority in Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The biometric enrolment procedure consists of ten fingerprint and facial biometrics. As on 30 November 2017, IVFRT scheme has been introduced in 163 Indian Missions/Posts abroad, amongst which 114

Missions/Posts have implemented biometric enrolment procedure. The introduction of biometrics procedure is related to the implementation of IVFRT system in Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The implementation of IVFRT scheme along with enrolment of biometric procedure will enhance the security aspects of visa issuing mechanism besides facilitating movement of genuine foreign visitors to India.

With the objective of rationalising, liberalising and simplifying the visa regime of India, the Government has decided to extend the facility of five-year Tourist and Business Visas to the nationals of most of countries. A new Permanent Residency Status scheme has been introduced for the foreign investors. In addition, a new category of Intern and Film Visa has been introduced.

### Visa Issuance by the CPV Division

The Consular, Passport, and Visa (CPV) Division has issued 5,533 visas to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders during the period from 1 January to 30 November 2017. The CPV Division also issued 8,575 visa notes during the aforementioned period to Indian Government officials going to join Indian Missions/ Posts abroad on transfer and official engagements.

### Outsourcing of Visa/Consular/Passport: Work by Indian Missions/Posts

The Ministry introduced outsourcing of visa services in Missions and Posts abroad during 2006-07. Subsequently, passport and consular services were also outsourced. As on 30 November 2017, sixty-three 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.

### E-Visa

**The Tourist Visa on Arrival:** Electronic Travel Authorisation (TVoA-ETA) Scheme was launched on 27 November 2014. It was renamed e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) with effect from 15 April 2015. The e-TV Scheme was also renamed e-Visa with effect from 1 April 2017 after comprehensive revision and liberalisation of the scheme. Initially the scheme was available

for citizens of forty three countries which has now been extended to the citizens of 163 countries/territories. An e-Visa is granted to a foreigner for the purposes of tourism, attending short-term yoga programmes, medical treatment, and business activities. There are three sub-categories of e-Visas, viz. e-Tourist Visa, e-Business Visa and e-Medical Visa. A foreign national can apply for an e-Visa online, upto 120 days prior to the expected date of arrival in India.

**The e-Visa facility has been extended to the following countries/territories:** Albania, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Island, Chile, China, China-SAR Hong Kong, China-SAR Macau, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger Republic, Niue Island, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Island, Tuvalu, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, the United States of America (USA), Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vatican City-Holy See, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The e-Visa facility is available at twenty-five designated international airports and five seaports in India.



## Overseas Indian Affairs

### Revision of Indian Community Welfare Fund guidelines

Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), set up in 2009, is aimed at assisting overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency in the most deserving cases on a means tested basis. ICWF stands extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. Apart from assisting Indian nationals in distress abroad, ICWF has been a critical support in emergency evacuation of Indian nationals in conflict zones in Libya, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan and other challenging situations like assistance extended to undocumented Indian workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the nitaqat drive in 2013 and the Amnesty drive in 2017 in recent times.

During the course of the year, ICWF was used for evacuation of Indians from British Virgin Islands in the aftermath of devastation caused by Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The scale and speed of these evacuations and assistance rendered through the Fund has been universally appreciated. It has also created a sense of confidence among the migrant workers going overseas about the support they can expect from India during critical times. There are over 1,00,000 beneficiaries of the Fund.

The ICWF guidelines were comprehensively revised with the approval of Cabinet and have been operationalised with effect from (w.e.f) 1 September 2017. The revised guidelines have been made broad-based and are aimed at expanding the scope of welfare measures that can be extended through the Fund. They are expected to provide Indian Missions and Posts abroad greater flexibility in swiftly addressing to requests for assistance by Overseas Indian nationals. The expanded guidelines cover the following three key areas :

- i. **Assisting Overseas Indian nationals in distress situations:** The assistance may be in the form of boarding and lodging, air passage, legal assistance, payment for small fines and penalties, transportation of mortal remains, emergency medical care etc on means tested basis in the most deserving cases. A new segment for extending legal/financial

assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian/foreigner spouses has also been introduced.

- ii. **Support for Community Welfare activities:** This new provision in the revised guidelines enables Indian Missions/Posts to incur expenditure on community activities pertaining to the Indian community including on community assets, support for promotion of Indian culture and language and students welfare.
- iii. **Improvement in Consular services:** This new provision in the revised guidelines enables Missions/Posts to incur administrative expenses including on setting up of toll-free helplines/walk in Centres; developing e-governance solutions to address consular problems; extending assistance at detention centres, labour camps etc. on a need-based basis and for undertaking awareness campaigns.

### Revamping of Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana

The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), a mandatory insurance scheme for Indian workers falling under Emigration Check Required (ECR) category going for overseas employment to ECR countries, provide insurance cover of 10 lakhs in case of accidental death/permanent disability at an insurance premium of 275 and 375 for a period of two and three years respectively. The scheme was comprehensively revamped in consultation with concerned stakeholders so as to make it more beneficial for emigrant workers and ensure expedited settlement of claims. The strengthened scheme has become effective from 1 August 2017.

**Salient provisions of the strengthened scheme are as follows:**

- Maximum sum for which insured under the scheme is 10 lakhs in the event of accidental death or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad, irrespective of change of employer/location of insured person.

- Certification of accidental death or permanent disability by Indian Missions and Posts abroad to be accepted by the insurance companies.
- Medical insurance cover including injuries / sickness / ailment / diseases has been enhanced to 1,00,000 (up to 50,000 per hospitalization)
- Repatriation cover for medically unfit/premature termination of employment: actual one-way economy class air fare to the nearest international airport in India.
- Family hospitalization in India up to 50,000. Maternity benefit to women emigrants up to 35,000.
- Return economy class air fare to the nearest international airport attendant in case of emigrant's accidental death or permanent disability.
- Legal expenses on litigation related to emigrant's overseas employment up to 45,000.
- Provision for online renewal of PBBY policy.

### Closure of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY)

The Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Pravasi Yojana (MGPSY), a voluntary scheme with the objective of protection and welfare of the emigrant workers and to address their social security issues in Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries, was launched in May 2012. As the scheme did not get an encouraging response, it was closed with the approval of the Cabinet w.e.f 1 April 2017.

### Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is among the key priorities of the Ministry towards enhancing skills-set of potential emigrants. The scheme aims at enhancing the skills set of potential emigrant workers in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate overseas employment. Initially, the scheme's focus is on sectors that are in demand in ECR countries.

#### India International Skill Centres which are in operation

S.No.	Name of Training Centres	IISC Job role	Location
1	Society Action for Welfare and Cultural Advancement Society (SWACA)	General Duty Assistant	Varanasi
2	Quivan – DTC – Anandnagar	Mason General	Maharajganj
3	Orion Edutech	General Duty Assistant	Varanasi

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementation of the PKVY was signed with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in July, 2016 towards implementation of the scheme. The PKVY includes a technical top up training to be provided by MSDE through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). This is complemented with the Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) on part of the Ministry aimed at enhancing soft skills of potential emigrants in terms of culture, language, traditions and local rules and regulations of the destination country.

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship under the “Skill India” Mission has set up India International Skill Centres (IISC) to provide skill training and certification benchmarked to international standards. Currently thirteen such India International Skill Centres (IISCs) are operational and more centres are being made operational.

India Centre for Migration (ICM), that serves as a research think-tank of the Ministry on all issues related to international migration has collaborated with International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to bring out a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Manual. The Manual has been translated into Hindi and Telugu languages as well. Apart from the manual exclusive handbooks on pre-departure orientation have also been developed, both for general category and women migrant workers. They have also been translated into regional languages.

The pre-departure training/ Training of the Trainers (ToT) programmes have been organized during 2017 viz: Five-day ToT on PDOT from 27-31 March 2017, three-day ToT on PDOT from 8-10 December 2017, New Delhi, two-day ToT on PDOT from 30-31 May 2017 in Hyderabad, two-day ToT from 11-12 October 2017 in Amaravati and a two-day ToT workshop on “Building Capacities for Safe & Legal Migration for Women Domestic Workers” in Sircilla, Telangana, 25-26 October 2017 in collaboration with the respective State governments and their human resource agencies. The initiative has been a success and Ministry is in process of expanding it further.

S.No.	Name of Training Centres	IISC Job role	Location
1	Society Action for Welfare and Cultural Advancement Society (SWACA)	General Duty Assistant	Varanasi
2	Quivan – DTC – Anandnagar	Mason General	Maharajganj
3	Orion Edutech	General Duty Assistant	Varanasi
4	SynchroServe Skill Development Centre	Food And Beverage Service Steward	Hyderabad
5	Force 10 Protection Services Private Ltd	Unarmed Security guard	Kochi
6	Empower Pragati India International Skill Training Centre	Sales Associate F and B	Allahabad
7	Mahendra Skills	Retail Sales Associate	Lucknow
8	Labournet - IIMC Center	General Mason	Gorakhpur
9	Prayas JAC	General Housekeeper	Ranchi
10	IL&FS Skills	Commercial Vehicle Driver	Ajmer
11	Quivan HTTC	General Mason	Kolkata
12	Moti Babu Institute of Technology	General Mason and MIG Welder	Araria
13.	Quivan Technical Institute	MIG Welder	North 24, Parganas, WB

## Outreach Programmes

During the course of year, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched a major outreach programme - 'Videsh Sampark' with the twin objectives of generating awareness on the various initiatives launched by the MEA in the crucial areas of consular and passport services, grievance redressal and welfare and protection of overseas Indians among various stakeholders at the State level and for strengthening partnership with the State governments in addressing these issues. State Outreach Conferences were held in Hyderabad, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram as part of the program. The Program has received an excellent feedback and the Ministry aims to intensify it further.

The media campaign “ Surakshit Jaaye, Prasikshit Jaaye” in Hindi and eight other regional languages during the year was helpful in raising the awareness among the migrant workers of their rights and responsibilities.

## Cooperation on Labour and Human Resources

The cooperation between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on labour and human resources related issues

was further strengthened during the year. Discussions were held with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE in this regard. India also participated under the aegis of regional consultative processes viz Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Colombo Process that are valuable platforms for strengthening cooperation among the labour sending and labour receiving countries.

## Human Resource Mobility Partnerships

India-European Union (EU) High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) was held in Brussels on 4 April 2017. This was the first such dialogue after the signing of the Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) on 30 March 2016 in Brussels, during the visit of Prime Minister to Belgium for the thirteenth India-EU Summit. The high level dialogue provided a valuable platform for comprehensive discussions on issues related to liberalization of EU's extant visa regime with regard to Indian nationals both for short-term and long-term stays in EU territory, advancing interest of increasing number of Indian students in the EU countries, easier access for our professionals/workforce to EU markets and to push for greater mobility through liberalization of services.

Ministry of External Affairs has also accorded priority to labour mobility partnerships with the countries, aiming at access to foreign labour markets and ease of mobility for the Indian workforce. Discussions with France on a ‘Partnership Agreement on Migration and Mobility’ are at an advanced stage. The last round of negotiations were held on 23-24 November 2017 in Paris.

### India Centre for Migration

The India Centre for Migration (ICM) is a research think-tank of the Ministry on all matters related to international migration.

As part of its ongoing collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN Women, the ICM organized various capacity building workshops on safe and legal migration in collaboration with State Governments in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The collaboration with UN Women is exclusively focused on women domestic workers. A Comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation & Training (PDOT) manual was also developed and Training of Trainers (ToT) programs for the PDOT were organized. The various initiatives taken by the Centre for migrant workers have been appreciated and the Centre looks forwards to scaling up these activities in the year ahead.

The Centre also participated /organized seminars on thematic issues relevant to Indian migrant workers and the Indian diaspora.

### Economic slowdown in GCC countries

The ongoing economic slowdown in Gulf countries resulting from lower oil prices since 2014 has had an adverse impact on the various sections of economy including construction industry, real estate, oil and natural gas based companies, banking/financial sectors and on other sectors. These have adversely impacted expatriate migrant workers. There were some reports of Indian workers being asked to leave before completion of existing contracts and loss of jobs resulting from

(In lakhs)

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (As on 30-11-17)
No. of Emigration Clearances granted by Protector of Emigrants Offices	7.47	8.17	8.05	7.81	5.21	3.61

closure of companies. Instances of unpaid dues/salaries were also reported from the Gulf region. The Government has been monitoring the situation and working in close coordination with the governments in Gulf states towards extending all possible assistance to Indian nationals abroad. Wherever difficulties were reported, matters have been taken up with the host government and concerned companies. In addition, support has also been extended through ICWF in deserving cases.

Every year, a large number of people from India go abroad for overseas employment purposes. Major outflow of emigrant workers from India in the last few years has been to the Gulf countries where more than eight million Indian workers are estimated to be employed. A vast majority of migrants to West Asia, including Gulf countries, are semi-skilled and unskilled workers and most of them are temporary migrants who return to India after expiry of their contractual employment.

### OE & PGE DIVISION

Every year, a large number of people from India go abroad for overseas employment purposes. Major outflow of emigrant workers from India in the last few years has been to the Gulf countries where more than eight million Indian workers are estimated to be employed. A vast majority of migrants to West Asia, including Gulf countries, are semi-skilled and unskilled workers and most of them are temporary migrants who return to India after expiry of their contractual employment.

There was generally a steady increase in the number of Indians emigrating for employment abroad but due to economic slowdown in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, there is declining trend during the recent years of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders. Emigration Clearances (EC) granted to the ECR category persons going to Emigration Check Required countries (namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen) during the years from 2012 to 2017 is as follows:

Countries where protection/welfare of emigrants/workers is not strong, have been designated by Government of India as Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries. Many of these ECR emigrants are less educated and less skilled/unskilled; their Passports are issued with an ‘Emigration Check Required’ (ECR) remark affixed on their Passports. Before they travel abroad for employment, they are required to obtain an ‘Emigration Clearance’ from offices of Protectors of Emigrants (PoE). Emigration clearance is a safety measure issued only after verifying employment details like offered salary, working terms and conditions in the Employment Contract as well as

credentials of Foreign Employer etc. so as to ensure that emigrants are not duped overseas. The Emigration Clearance is now issued online by ten Protectors of Emigrants whose offices are located in Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Rae Bareli and Thiruvananthapuram. Due to complaints of exploitation in respect of nurses last year, the ‘Nurses’ as a category have also been brought under ‘Emigration Check Required’ and that too to be recruited only by Government Recruiting Agents (RAs) for safeguarding the nurses going for overseas employment. PoE-wise EC issued by the ten PoE offices during the last three years and current year are as under;

Sl. No.	Name of PoEs	2014	2015	2016	2017 (As on 30-11-17)
1	Delhi	125190	185632	101000	57807
2	Chandigarh	56862	36815	30317	39950
3	Jaipur	56271	47573	31957	12811
4	Rae Bareli	21984	16468	18937	6637
5	Hyderabad	77726	48760	39006	38892
6	Cochin	26923	24079	16932	11576
7	Trivandrum	8501	18772	8872	2237
8	Mumbai	391368	353591	231609	157786
9	Chennai	30463	41665	27491	24266
10	Kolkata	9717	10797	14817	9233
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>805005</b>	<b>784152</b>	<b>520938</b>	<b>361195</b>

A number of students and highly skilled professionals also move to countries such as USA, UK, Canada, Australia, etc., where labor and employment laws are well defined and workers’ interests are protected under the law. No emigration clearance is required to be obtained for emigrating to such countries for employment. Similarly, ‘Seafarers’ from India have to also register on the e-Migrate system, before proceeding for overseas deployment since September, 2017.

Briefly, the sole purpose of emigration clearance process is to ensure that the ECR passport holding Indian workers emigrate safely, after skill development and pre-departure orientation, and have a safe stay overseas during the period of employment.

### E-Migrate System

To regulate overseas employment especially for protection of

less educated and blue collar workers, the ECR process is regulated through an electronic system called “e-Migrate”. 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. The system is also integrated with Bureau of Immigration (BoI) of the Ministry of Home Affairs used at Immigration Check Post (ICP) at airports for online validation of the emigration clearance granted by POEs. Integration with BoI system enables e-Migrate system to record departure and arrival information of ECR category workers. It provides a comprehensive and online database of emigrants, missions,

recruiting agents, foreign employers, and insurance agencies to all stakeholders. This ensures that all stakeholders of the emigrants are on the same electronic-platform, which greatly enhances the “Ease-of-doing-business” and ensures prompt and easy action on all fronts to all the stakeholders including quick redressal of grievance of emigrants or their relatives who complain. Whenever an emigrant arrives at an airport or check-post to proceed abroad, their passport details are validated online by the immigration officers and only those who have obtained EC are allowed to travel. This is a measure to ensure protection against possible exploitation of the Indian workers on arrival and during their stay abroad.

The e-Migrate system has also facilitated registration of Indian ‘Seafarers’ going for overseas placement through legal channel. This registration ensures more safety and protection to the seafarers.

The “e-Migrate” system functions under the control of Protector General of Emigrants who exercises powers and responsibilities under the Emigration Act 1983, through this system, to ensure protection and welfare of Indian emigrants proceeding abroad for overseas employment.

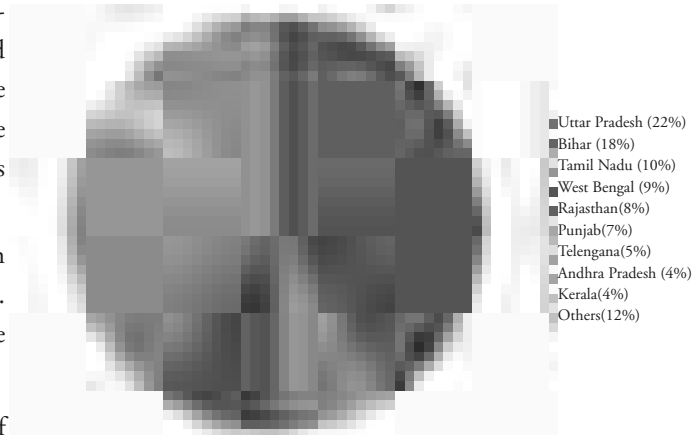
### Trends in Migration

During the year 2017 (30 November 2017), 3.61 lakh workers emigrated from India after obtaining emigration clearance. Country-wise number of emigration clearances given for emigration to major ECR countries during the current year are given in the table below.

#### Workers emigrated (in lakhs)

SL. No.	Name of Countries	Year-2017 (30.11.2017)
1	Saudi Arabia	0.73
2	UAE	1.41
3	Kuwait	0.51
4	Qatar	0.22
5	Oman	0.49
6	Bahrain	0.10
7	Malaysia	0.13
8	Others	0.02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.61</b>

States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, were the leading States in order of the numbers who emigrated. The number of persons emigrated from these States during the year 2017 (30 November 2017) are depicted in the pie chart below.



### Registration of Recruiting Agents

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 25,000. Initially, the Registration Certificate (RC) is valid for a period of five years. The form for applying for registration as Recruiting Agent (RA) is available on-line in e-Migrate, which may be accessed at emigrate.gov.in. The RA is required to deposit a bank guarantee for an amount of 50 lakh after being found eligible for grant of RC. The form, instructions, training videos for applying for registration as RA are available online at www.emigrate.gov.in/.

To improve and streamline the procedure for processing of fresh applications for registration as RA under the Emigration Act, it was decided that with effect from 1 March 2016, all fresh applications for registration as RA will be submitted to the respective PoEs on-line only. The PoE does the initial scrutiny to verify the completeness of the applications and forwards the same to Ministry of External Affairs’ (MEA) Overseas Employments & Protectorate General of Emigrants (OE & PGE) Division along with all the documents including:

- The POE Inspection Report of the premises of the proposed office of the RA; and
- The Police Verification Report (PVR) on verification of character and antecedents of the applicant from the local police.

- The verification of graduate/equivalent certificate of the RA from the concerned university.

During the last two years 144 fresh registrations with enhanced bank guarantee of 50 lakh have been granted and 399 RCs renewed on-line.

## Protection and Welfare of Emigrants

The Government has initiated several measures for safe and legal migration, and to ensure protection and welfare of Indian emigrants in the destination countries. Some of them are as follows:

- To safeguard them from exploitation by unscrupulous agents, Indian nurses are also required to obtain Emigration Clearances for overseas employment to ECR countries. Further, recruitment of Indian nurses has been facilitated through country specific orders with additional terms and conditions to be followed by both foreign employer and Indian recruiting agent.
- Of all emigrant workers, housemaids and female ECR workers are the most vulnerable categories. To safeguard their interests, the following measures have been taken:
  - Age restriction of thirty years has been made mandatory in respect of all women emigrants (except nurses) emigrating on ECR passports to ECR countries irrespective of nature/category of employment;
  - Vide order dated 2 August 2016, emigration clearance of all female workers having ECR passports, for overseas employment in eighteen ECR countries has been made mandatory through six State-run recruiting agencies only.
  - Foreign employer should deposit a security deposit of US\$2,500 if he recruits the female worker directly, to be released back to employer when the worker returns back to India safely.
  - Embassy attestation has been made mandatory in respect of direct recruitment of all ECR passport holding women workers to all ECR countries;
  - With effect from June 2015, registration of Foreign Employers (FE) in the e-Migrate system has been made mandatory - a process which involves validation of the FE by the concerned Indian Mission.

## 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 directs concerned Recruiting Agent (if the worker was recruited through a registered RA) 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 in the destination country.

In those cases, in which complaints are received against the illegal agents from emigrants/intending emigrants or their relatives regarding alleged cheated/duped/fraud committing; the complaints are referred to the concerned State Governments to take action against the illegal agents as “law and order” is a State Subject and moreover these agents are operating their illegal activities in the States.

From 1 January-30 September 2017, total 349 complaints were forwarded to the concerned State Governments. The State Governments/police authorities in turn, after investigation seek prosecution sanction from the PGE, MEA who is the competent authority for prosecuting the accused in the appropriate Court of Law under Section 27 of the Emigration Act, 1983. Requests for such prosecution sanction are processed and prosecution sanction issued on priority by the office of the PGE. From 1 January-30 September 2017, twenty nine prosecution sanctions have been issued to the concerned State Governments who sought the same.

Of late it has been noted with concern that the scourge of human trafficking is on the rise especially relating to children and females. The Ministry has taken a proactive stance for welfare of female workers going to eighteen ECR countries to be permitted only through six State run recruiting agencies. However, in majority of cases of trafficking of Indian emigrants has been through illegal agents who bypass the system. Typically, these agents resort to sending people abroad on tourist visa and either dupe them or at times traffic them. As and when a complaint relating to human trafficking is reported to OE & PGE Division, the same is being referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under Chapter 3.5(f) of CBI Crime Manual for taking action in the matter.

A one-day conference at larger scale was organized on 8 May 2017, in Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, chaired by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj in which Non Resident Indian (NRI) Ministers from most of the States, including Chief Minister of Puducherry and Head of Missions from Bahrain, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, had participated. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj emphasised that States should take stringent action in apprehending illegal agents operating in different States. She also underlined that States should conduct media campaign against illegal agents.

### Grievances against Foreign Employers

Immediately on receipt of a complaint from an emigrant or their relatives, the Mission/Post takes up the matter with the foreign employer, as well as local authorities to settle the matter amicably. In deserving situations, they try to get the workers repatriated by coordinating with concerned Recruiting Agent and the Protector General of Emigrants. Indian Missions and Posts also recommend inclusion of such Foreign Employers in the Prior Approval Category list based on complaints of maltreatment of Indian emigrants. On the basis of such recommendation, the Ministry places the concerned foreign company in the Prior Approval Category. A foreign company – when included in the Prior Approval Category list – is no longer allowed to recruit workers from India.

Some of the significant achievements of the OE & PGE Division during the period from 1 January-30 November 2017 in respect of Recruiting Agents are as under:

Sl. No	Name of activity	Status
1	Fresh Registration Certificate Issued	50
2.	Renewal of Registration Certificate done	206
3	Eligibility Letter to prospective RAs issued	35
4	Deficiency Letters issued	586
5	Bank Guarantees released on closure of Agency	73
6	Approval granted for change of address, branch office, name of office bearers etc	238
7	Action against registered Recruiting Agents-issue of Show Cause Notice (SCN)	181
8	Prosecution Sanction/Letter to State Government against illegal agents	29
9	Numbers of complaints referred to State Governments	457



## Administration and Establishment

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4,208 (Appendix IX) with the total strength almost evenly split between the Headquarters and Missions/Posts, distributed across different cadres such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), General Cadre, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre and Legal & Treaties Cadre, among others.

The Ministry augmented its manpower by recruiting personnel at various levels through Direct Recruitment (DR) and Departmental Promotions (DP) in the Recruitment Year 2017-18. (Appendix X). The Ministry ensures adequate opportunity for persons with disability for their suitable representation among its personnel in line with GoI rules. Ministry also takes officers on deputation from other GoI Ministries/State Governments and specialized agencies to meet its diverse functional requirements.

With a view to deliver better outcomes in its increasing diplomatic engagements, the Ministry is in consultation with other GoI Ministries/ Departments to set up new Indian Missions/ Posts abroad.

The Ministry pays focused attention to training of all its cadres along with specialized modules on international law, cyber security, gender budgeting, effective use of social media, etc., as required. Attention is paid to development of linguistic skills of IFS officers, including at interpretation level. Over time, this has resulted in the creation of a reasonably large pool of officers with foreign language skills within the Service (Appendix XI).

The Division continued to actively utilize technology tools such as the e-Samiksha portal, an online interface between Headquarters and the Missions/Posts as an effective platform for idea-exchange, information gathering and monitoring of several functional areas of Missions/Posts.

### Vigilance & Inspection

In 2016-17, in addition to the routine inspections of Missions/Posts, Directorate General of Inspections (DGI) introduced Performance Evaluation and Monitoring System (PEMS), a digital platform by which Missions/Posts responses

were evaluated against a set of identified areas to measure Mission's/Post's performance. It was a dynamic two-way interface system between the Ministry and the Missions/Posts and all Missions/Posts were evaluated in 2016-17. PEMS provided an objective, transparent and participatory process for selection of Missions/Posts for on-site inspections by a team of Directorate General of Inspections. DGI also took into account feedback and inputs from concerned Divisions, news reports and Missions/Posts before the actual inspection.

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed in the Ministry from 30.10.2017 to 04.11.2017. The Integrity pledge was administered to all officials in the Ministry, its attached offices in India and all Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The activities like setting up of grievance redressal cells were also organized during the week. A summary of vigilance related cases in the Ministry in the current year, is as follows:

- No of cases pending as on 31.03.2017 : 115
- No of cases received for examination during the period 01.04.2017 to 30.11.2017 : 79
- Total number of cases as on 30.11.2017 : 194
- Number of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty during the period form 01.04.2017 to 30.11.2017 : 11
- No of cases closed without penalty, including on account of death, VRS etc during the period from 01.04.2017 to 30.11.2017 : 73
- Total of cases closed during the period 01.04.2017 to 30.11.2017 : 84
- No of cases pending as on 30.11.2017 : 110

### Establishment Division

Remarkable progress in allotment of residential accommodations has been made and the waiting for allotment has gone down significantly. A number of projects including sanitary fittings, landscaping & gardening, repair of solar panels to generate electricity which has also been helpful to warm water in Chanakyapuri complex, upgradation of security

measures and development of infrastructure have been undertaken.

Further a Memorandum of Understanding dated 4 August 2017 was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited for development of grid connected and off-grid roof-top solar photovoltaic and small solar power plants.

Pursuant to message of Secretary (Power) dated 7 July 2017, Establishment Division is in the process of replacing regular lights with LED based lights in all Missions/Posts, Regional Passport Office (RPOs), Branch Secretariats & caretakers of all government owned official and residential buildings managed by MEA in New Delhi and the process has been partially completed. With the launch of GeM (Government e-Market Place) Portal, by the Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce, Establishment Division has been actively using GeM portal for procuring various goods and services. The system of inviting bids through GeM portal has contributed to greater transparency and substantial cost-cutting in various items.

During the period under review, this Division has commenced online booking of conference rooms for all official meetings. An online Od'A portal has been started to maintain proper record as well as enable easier access to all users and effective tracking of Od'A items. A quarterly report on the information about gifts received in the Toshakhana is also being published on Ministry's website regularly. This Division has also approached Ministry of Home Affairs requesting to review the 50 years old Toshakhana Rules, particularly, modification of the auction procedure which could allow a greater inclusion of officers/officials in different Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs), State Governments and also general public as it would enable disposing of the gifts in a transparent manner at regular intervals.

Successful liaison has been done with MTNL which has provided upgraded optical fiber in Chanakyapuri Residential Complex and between Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan and South Block. Being the nodal Division for 'Swachh Bharat' campaign, two campaigns namely "Swachhta Hi Sewa" from 15 September - 2 October 2017 and "Swachhta Weeks" from 10-16 October 2017 and 24-30 October 2017 were organized. Insignia of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan were distributed to all officials of the Ministry and separate budget for Swachh Bharat Mission was allocated in the current financial year for

undertaking cleanliness works in office/residential premises. All the Missions & Posts abroad, RPO's, Protector of Emigrants (PoE) and all Divisions participated very enthusiastically under the campaign by preparing Action Plan and successfully implementing it.

## Welfare

Welfare Division looks after general welfare of all employees of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). During the ongoing year, we lost fourteen employees of the MEA for whom all assistance was rendered by the Division and ex-gratia payment from Staff Benefit Fund was provided.

In 2017, forty-three wards were accorded admission to engineering courses. These seats were allotted to MEA by Ministry of Human Resource Development. Five children of MEA officials were accorded admission to MBBS courses. These seats were allotted to MEA by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The selection of candidates for engineering & medical seats were done in a transparent and time bound manner. Relevant details were circulated via MEA intranet.

Thirty-eight children of MEA officials were accorded admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas against seats allotted by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Process has been initiated for appointment on compassionate grounds for two Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) and one Junior Specialist Assistant (JSA), which is likely to be finalised shortly.

Fund raising campaigns were organised by the Welfare Division during Communal Harmony Week for National Foundation for Communal Harmony and for commemoration of the Armed Forces Flag Day. In coordination with the Indian Red Cross Society, a blood donation camp was organised.

Grants-in-aid to 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, Aadhaar cards, telephone connections etc. as also necessary assistance required in medical emergencies, whether for those coming from Missions abroad or working at HQ.

## Global Estate Management Division

GEM Division's mandate was further expanded to include acquisition/construction/redevelopment/renovation of MEA

properties in India, notably the establishment of Videsh Bhawans in the State Capitals. The progress of various projects in India and abroad was closely monitored to ensure their timely implementation.

In pursuance of its aim of reducing Government's rental liability in India and abroad, GEM Division successfully concluded the acquisition of a property in Geneva for construction of Chancery building to house three Permanent Missions of India to the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD), as well as the Consulate General of India. Acquisition projects at Cape Town (built-up property for Consul General's residence), Kabul (built-up property for Chancery), Hong Kong (two flats for use as residences) and Chennai (plot of land for Videsh Bhawan) were actively pursued and finalized. Acquisition projects in Milan, Munich, Hamburg, Rome, Bishkek, Tel Aviv, Nairobi, Vladivostok, Hyderabad, and Patna were also pursued.

Another noteworthy development was the completion of the Chancery-cum-Residences construction project at Bahrain and Dar-es-salaam. Other construction projects nearing

completion included Kathmandu (redevelopment of Chancery & Staff Residences), Dhaka (Chancery, High Commissioner's Residence and Staff Residences) and Islamabad (High Commissioner's Residence & other residences).

Civil construction successfully commenced in Khartoum (redevelopment of Chancery & Staff Residences), Nicosia (construction of 5 residential units) and Port of Spain (Mahatma Gandhi International Culture Centre). Designing/tendering of the construction projects in Berlin, Brunei Darussalam, Jakarta, Moscow, Shanghai, Male and Mahe (Seychelles) also commenced during the year.

GEM Division also undertook the redevelopment project of MEA Residential Complex at R. K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi and K.G. Marg, New Delhi.

Major renovation projects were undertaken at Bangkok, Belgrade, Dar-es-Salaam, Harare, Helsinki, Kuwait and Moscow. Various repair and maintenance works were carried out at the embassy residences in Athens, Antananarivo, Hanoi, Rome, Vienna and at the Chancery in PMI, New York.



## Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

A total of 1849 RTI applications and 144 First Appeals seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 have been received in the Ministry during the period from 1 April 2017 to 30 November, 2017 and have been disposed off satisfactorily. Applications in general covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, Haj pilgrimage, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same.

In order to enable better understanding of the provisions of the RTI Act 2005 and enable Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) to respond to RTI applications expeditiously and

efficiently, interactive sessions with an expert on the RTI Act, 2005 were organized for the officers and the staff of the Ministry at periodic intervals. A half day workshop on the RTI Act, 2005 was organised in Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra on 1 July, 2017.

All Central Information Commission (CIC) hearings have been attended to by the concerned CPIOs 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.



## E-Governance and Information Technology

E-Governance and Information Technology (eG&IT) Division is mandated to carry out feasibility studies, design, development, testing, implementation and maintenance of various e-Governance applications in the Ministry, in coordination with National Informatics Center (NIC) as per the standard norms of Government of India. eG&IT Division is also providing all Information Technology (IT) related support to the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad for procurement, maintenance and upkeep of all IT infrastructure.

EG&IT Division is taking steps to implement different components of Digital India Programme in the Ministry and all Missions/Posts abroad. Four Mission Mode Projects of e-Kranti (fourth pillar of Digital India Programme) namely e-Office, e-Procurement, Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration and Tracking System (IVFRT) and Passport Seva Projects (PSP), are presently operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad.

A number of e-governance and automation projects have been also undertaken by the Ministry in consonance with aim and objectives of digital India. Automation and networking is being exploited as a tool to achieve synergy at all levels of functioning in the Ministry and render efficient services to government officials. eG&IT Division has implemented several e-Governance projects and some of them are under implementation stage. The following e-Governance projects have been implemented:-

- **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra website** (<https://kmy.gov.in>). The website facilitates online registration for yatri who wish to undertake pilgrimage to Mansarovar and provides requisite information in this regard.
- **e-political clearance system** (<http://epolclearance.gov.in>). The portal facilitates online submission and issuance of political clearance.
- **Portal for scholarship programme for Diaspora children** (<http://spdcindia.gov.in>). This portal facilitates online submission of application by children of Indian Diaspora for scholarship programme for studying in Indian Universities/Institutes (except medical and related courses).
- **Performance Evaluation Monitoring System** (<https://pems.gov.in>). This portal facilitates evaluation of performance of all Missions/Posts on the basis of preliminary binary questions and subsequent detailed questions.
- **Know India Programme** (<http://kip.gov.in>). This portal facilitates online registration for diaspora children who wish to register for three week orientation programme conducted in India with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and progress made by the country.
- **Admission to Alumni ICCR scholarships programme** (<http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>). This portal facilitates online registration for foreign students who are interested in pursuing graduate, post graduate, higher, technical studies in Indian Universities/Institutes under various schemes.
- **Videsh Apps** (<https://videshapps.gov.in>). This portal provides various automation applications to the officials of the Ministry such as online registration for booking of conference rooms in various buildings of Ministry and File Management System.
- **Pratishthit Pravasi portal for management of database of NRIs/PIOs** (<https://pratishthit-pravasi.gov.in>). This portal facilitates the online registration for prominent NRIs/PIOs including scientists, academicians, professionals etc.
- **e-Sanad** (<http://esanad.nic.in>). This portal facilitates online submission/verification of documents with an ultimate object to extend contact less, cashless, faceless and paperless document attestation service for apostille and normal attestation to applicants in India.
- **ASEAN-India commemorative summit website** (<http://iascs2018.gov.in>). This website serves as a single

gateway to provide all requisite information about the summit and to facilitate online registration for delegates and media.

In addition to above mentioned implemented e-Governance projects, the development work on Integrated Mission Accounting System Version 2.0, Diplomatic ID Card Registration and Issuance System, Property Management Website for Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra and Global Estate Management Portal is under advance stage of finalisation.

The implemented e-governance projects are rendering the benefits of e-Governance services to Ministry officials, Government officials, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)/Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and beneficiaries of bilateral/trilateral good-will programmes.

Ministry has consistently pursued a focused approach to optimize Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) initiatives for harnessing the dividends of digital India. This has also resulted in proportionate growth of IT assets in the Ministry and ever increasing dependency and reliance on IT applications, thereby necessitating the management of cyber threats. The initiatives taken in this direction are as under:-

- **Up-gradation of IT Infrastructure in MEA Buildings** The security architecture has been reviewed in the Ministry and existing IT infrastructure has been upgraded with new generation networking and threat management devices to meet the ever growing challenges of cyber security.
- **Smart India Hackathon 2017** A progressive approach has been adopted to involve students in cyber security management. Ministry was involved in sponsoring Smart India Hackathon 2017 held in New Delhi on 1-2 April 2017 under the aegis of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The student body was involved in providing solution to 18 problem statements projected by the Ministry.
- **Cyber Capacity Building** An online course on Cyber Security has been organised for Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officials to increase awareness about the cyber security in the Ministry and enable them to manage and mitigate cyber threats.
- **Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Panel Discussion on “Developing Cyber Capacity of India”** It was held on 27 October 2017 in Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi wherein cyber domain expertise from India and abroad were invited to present their views on the entire spectrum of cyber domain which has bearing on developing cyber capacity in India.
- **Migration to Open Source Software (OSS) Platform** In pursuant to the Government of India direction to use OSS as preferred option in the Government Organisations, Ministry has moved in a big way towards adoption and migration of OSS platform which includes in-house customisation and implementation of OSS based Operating System.

## Parliament and Coordination Division

### Parliament Division

Parliament Division is Ministry's interface with Parliament and the nodal point of the MEA for all Parliament-related work. The work includes liaison with all Divisions of MEA 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 Division 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:

EAM chaired two meetings of the Consultative Committee for External Affairs during April - December 2017:

- The 2nd meeting (of 2017) of the Consultative Committee was held on 27 July 2017 on the subject "Prime Minister's recent visits to US and Israel".
- The 3rd meeting (of 2017) of the Consultative Committee was held on 21 December 2017 on the subject "Relationship with the neighbourhood".

Sittings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs:

The following meetings of the Ministry were held with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs during the period April - December 2017:

- (i) A briefing by Foreign Secretary, of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 25 July 2017 on the subject "India and new US Administration" followed by further evidence on the subject "India-Pak Relations".

- (ii) A briefing by Foreign Secretary of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 6 November 2017 on the subject "Relations with Myanmar and the Rohingya situation".
- (iii) MEA gave oral evidence before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on 11 April 2017 and 22 November 2017 in connection with examination of the subject "Issues relating to migrant workers including appropriate legislative framework and skill development initiatives for prospective emigrants". Foreign Secretary led the delegation from MEA in the first sitting on 11 April 2017 and Secretary (Consular Passport Visas & Overseas Indian Affairs) led the delegation in the next sitting on 22 November 2017.
- (iv) MEA gave oral evidence before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on 18 July 2017, 18 October 2017 and 30 October 2017 in connection with examination of the subject "Sino-India Relations including Doklam border situation and cooperation in international organisations". Representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs and Defence were also present at the meeting on 30 October 2017.
- (v) A sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 19 December 2017 on the subject "Situation in the Far East: Japan and North Korea". Secretary (Economic Relations) led the MEA delegation.
- (vi) A sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs is expected to be held during January-March 2018 to take oral evidence of the Ministry in connection with the examination of Ministry's Demand for Grants for the year 2018-2019.

In addition, MEA participated and facilitated the study tour of the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs (2016-2017) to Leh, Amritsar, Mumbai and Diu from 29 April - 5 May 2017 for an on the spot examination of various organizations.

**Meetings of other Committees of Parliament:**

- (i) MEA participated in the hearing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the subject “The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016” on 27 April 2017.
- (ii) MEA participated in the study visit of the Joint Committee on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to Ahmedabad and Rajkot from 18-21 April 2017 for an on the spot examination of “The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016” and to obtain feedback of various stake holders.
- (iii) MEA participated in hearing held by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on the subject “Trade with Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)” on 12 June 2017. Foreign Secretary led the delegation from MEA.
- (iv) MEA presented oral evidence in the Committee on Petitions, Lok Sabha on 12 June 2017 on the subject “Inordinate delay in the extradition of Shri Rajnesh Kaul, husband of Smt Parul Kaul, for subjecting her to cruelty, criminal breach of trust etc. Joint Secretary (Consular Passport and Visa) led the delegation from MEA.
- (v) Secretary (East) presented oral evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation on 13 June 2017 on the subject “Delay in framing of Rules/Regulations under the Nalanda University Act, 2010”.
- (vi) A sitting of the Public Accounts Committee was held on 13 October 2017. It took oral evidence of the Ministry in connection with four subjects selected by the Committee from Comptroller & Auditor General’s (CAG) Report No.12 of 2017 pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs. Foreign Secretary led our delegation.
- (vii) The Ministry gave oral evidence before the Public Accounts Committee on 24 November 2017 on the subjects selected by the Committee from CAG’s Report No.11 of 2016 pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs. Foreign Secretary led our delegation.

**Coordination Division**

The Coordination Division processes all proposals for the grant of no objection from the political angle for the foreign visits of Governors, Parliamentarians, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, Members of the State Legislatures,

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-December 2017, the Coordination Section issued 2443 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-December 2017, the Section issued 346 clearances for foreign non-scheduled military flights and 21 clearances for visits of foreign naval ships.

The Coordination Division processed approvals for the participation of Indian sports teams and sportspersons in international events abroad and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India. 145 such cases were processed for clearance during April-December 2017.

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 friendship cultural societies, located in foreign countries.

During April-December 2017, the Division issued clearances for 1387 conferences/seminars etc. in India. In addition, 221 requests for training/research in India by foreign students/scholars 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.

Coordination Division also coordinates 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.

Coordination Division also coordinated Ministry’s participation in Prime Minister’s monthly PRAGATI video-conferences on grievance redressal and review of programmes and projects. It coordinated Ministry’s responses for the Cabinet Secretariat’s e-Samiksha web-site. Coordination Division processed Ministry’s inputs on draft Cabinet notes,



Parliament related work, Cabinet Committee on Security decisions etc., 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 fifty-seven friendly neighbouring and developing countries for Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), Bachelor of Engineering (B.E) and Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharmacy) courses in various central institutions/colleges in India under Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Persecuted Minority Migrants from Bangladesh & Pakistan based in India have also been included within the purview of this scheme for admission in MBBS/BDS courses from the academic year 2016-17 onwards, for admission in B.E./B.Pharmacy/B.Tech/Diploma in Engineering from academic year 2017-18 onwards, and in Post-Graduation Doctor of Medicine/Master of Science (MD/MS) course at Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi from academic year 2018-19 onwards.

Details of application in respect of foreign nationals received/processed in Education Section for selection against nominated seats during the period April-December 2017 are given below:

- (i) 03 applications were received from Nepal for nominations in respect of PG Medical courses at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi for academic year 2017-18 and all the three applicants were allotted seats.
  - (ii) 117 applications including 04 from Persecuted Minority Migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India were received for nomination/selection in respect of 68 B.E & B. Pharmacy seats for academic year 2017-18. 60 seats including 02 from Persecuted Minority Migrants from Bangladesh & Pakistan based in India were allotted.
  - (iii) 57 applications in respect of foreign nationals and 16 applications in respect of Persecuted Minority Migrants from Bangladesh & Pakistan based in India were received for nomination/selection in respect of 45 MBBS & BDS seats for academic year 2017-18. 37 seats were allotted to foreign nationals and 08 seats were allotted to Persecuted Minority Migrants from Bangladesh & Pakistan based in India.
3. Cases of political clearances in respect of foreign students already studying in India in government institutions for engineering, medicine, nursing and other technical & professional courses including elective training/observer ship/research are also processed when approached by the nodal Ministries of the Government of India.
  4. During the period April-December 2017, 1655 cases of political clearances for foreign students/nationals were handled by the Education Section for appearance in PG entrance examination/elective training/ observer ship/ Ph.D research etc.

## External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division

### 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 organized coverage of 12th India-Japan Annual Summit at Ahmedabad on September 13-14, 2017 and Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 at Hyderabad on 28-30 November 2017. Coverage of 52nd Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank was also successfully done in Ahmedabad on 22 May 2017. The Division organized coverage of First Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in New Delhi on 9 January, 2018. It will also coordinate the media coverage of India-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Special Commemorative Summit 2018 in New Delhi from 25 & 26 January 2018 including participation of Heads of State (HoS) from these ASEAN countries in the Republic Day Celebrations, 2018. In March 2018, the Division will coordinate media coverage of International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit to be held in New Delhi on 11 March 2018.

### Digital Outreach

#### Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Website and Social Media Platforms

The Ministry's website is not only a window to India's foreign policy but a link to the 184 Missions and Posts across the world. Updated in real time, the MEA website is a vital source for

Indian and international media, diplomatic missions, Governmental Organizations, Scholars, Think Tanks, Students, Businessmen and Tourists. The present portal is highly accessible, scalable, flexible, reliable and compliant to standard specifications.

A special visits section helps in showcasing the Incoming and Outgoing Visits of the President, Vice President Shri Ramnath Kovind, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj. MEA's website has links to the Ministry's social media account on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, Instagram, Sound Cloud etc. It also provides the critical link to our Missions abroad through the integrated Mission pages, which allows a user to find India's diplomatic representatives abroad and keep abreast of their latest events. The MEA portal is also a key resource for both Overseas Indians and for those wishing to know more about Consular and Passport issues. We have recently refreshed the look and feel of the MEA web portal to make it more attractive and have given it a clutter free appearance with more graphics rather than data.

Given the importance of key celebrations such as the International Day of Yoga and the birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, special sections have not only provided more information but also showcased the international nature of celebrations on these occasions. The information was processed and displayed in a structured manner based on inputs from missions in each of the countries.

The Division also brings out changes to the website to make it more appealing and full with the latest features. A special attention is also paid to the cyber security of the website and periodic testing is carried out to evaluate its resilience against the threats.

Ministry's presence on social media platform has been constantly growing.

- (a) The followers of MEA India's Facebook page have increased tremendously and today the numbers stand at 2.1 million. To increase outreach we regularly conduct Facebook live sessions of various events.

- (b) Twitter is a critical medium for breaking news and the Indian Diplomacy Twitter account (@IndianDiplomacy) and the Official Spokesperson's Twitter account (@MEAIndia) have a combined followership of nearly three million. The platforms are used to tweet on India and India's foreign policy. Similarly, the number of people adding the MEA India G+ page to their inner circles is fast expanding and stands at 8,67,660. To further increase public outreach, Official Spokesperson has initiated a bi-monthly Twitter live session under the 'Ask the Spokesperson' moniker, where public can interact with him.
- (c) MEA's YouTube channel has a total of 24,747 subscribers with 23,41,028 views and the total minutes viewed at 80,55,907. The figures for Indian Diplomacy YouTube channel are, number of subscribers 44,289; number of views 97,32,658 and total minutes viewed 4,07,75,130.
- (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.
- (e) MEA has made a significant space on Instagram, with its presence garnering an excess of 60,476 followers in the short time that it has been active.
- (f) MEA has also made its debut on LinkedIn this year and already has 416 followers in short span of a few months. This platform would be used to publish a periodic blog on various aspects 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 172 Indian Missions and Posts (where Facebook has been permitted by the host government) have a Facebook presence. Working with Facebook, the Ministry has verified all accounts, and has standardized them under one title e.g. 'India in USA', 'India in Ireland' etc. 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. Around 174 Missions & Posts are also active on Twitter.

## Visual Outreach – Films and Documentaries

The Division commissions documentaries aimed at positive projection of India's image abroad. DVDs of the documentaries are sent to Indian Missions abroad for presentation, screening and telecast on foreign TV Channels. The procurement and supply of feature films with non-commercial screening rights for non-commercial screenings, organizing film festivals etc, assisting in organizing photographic exhibitions are other publicity activities undertaken by this Division. Customized sets of popular Indian Classical/Bollywood music CDs are commissioned for sending to Missions/Posts abroad for presentation purposes.

Six Documentaries were completed during the year namely: Filmistan: India-Bangladesh: India Boundless, Realising Hopes, Shalom Namaste-Ties of Friendship, Passport Seva Project, National Protocol Conference .Documentary films What MEA did, India-ASEAN: Shared Vision, India: A Science & Technology Superpower, India-Russia, Afghan Cricketers: The Rising Star were also commissioned and are in various stages of production. The Division had also organized a panel discussion during the celebration of twenty-five years of India-Israel Friendship to inaugurate the release of documentary film Shalom Namaste.

To commemorate the 142st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel the Division had arranged various videos titled Aura of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Documentary Life and time of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Documentary Life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel A Recalling, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Special documentary, Untitled India, Sardar Patel Quiz, Sardar Patel Quotes, Sardar Patel Quotes Hindi and English, Iron Man Sardar Patel from Films Division. These were uploaded on File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server for use by the Missions.

High Resolution photographs of national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar were made available in digital format either on DVDs/CDs or online on MEA intranet or Google drive. High Resolution and virtual exhibitions on various topics like Buddhist Heritage of India, Temples of India, Pluralistic Culture of India, Velha Goa, Islamic Monuments of India, Yoga India's Gift to the world, Ramayana: The Greatest Epic were also procured and made available to Missions in digital format.

Documentaries commissioned by the Division are uploaded on Indian Diplomacy Channel on YouTube and were also included in the public diplomacy tweets and MEA facebook to ensure global dissemination, and are popularized through the Ministry and Missions' social media channels.

File Transfer Protocol was also developed to facilitate Missions with various film screening of eleven Regional films procured by the division to propagate Regional languages of India through our Missions abroad.

Documentaries commissioned by the Division are uploaded on Indian Diplomacy Channel on YouTube and were also included in the public diplomacy tweets and MEA facebook to ensure global dissemination, and are popularized through the Ministry and Missions' social media channels.

## Public Outreach

The Division recently launched its new public outreach initiative, called SAMEEP – 'Students and MEA Engagement Programme' (crowd sourcing the name through an Open contest hosted on the Mygov.in portal) to connect with the students- the future of India. This effort towards broad-basing Ministry's outreach with the younger audience aims at increasing interest and awareness about MEA and its recent success stories on the foreign policy front. This programme proposes to familiarise school and college students about the role and functions of MEA; to introduce them to the key elements of India's Foreign Policy and our achievements in a simple manner.

The programme will involve visits of Ministry's officers to schools and colleges in their hometown/state during leave, purely on a voluntary basis; interact with the students and share with them, their experiences of working with the MEA as well. The first event under this initiative was held on 1 January 2017 in Jalandhar.

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 now brought under its ambit thirty-eight Central Universities besides a large number of premier education/training institutions like the IITs and IIMs across the country. This programme now covers more than fifty 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, forty-one lectures have been conducted.

India Perspectives, the flagship magazine of the Ministry continues to be available in sixteen languages – Hindi, Arabic, English, French, German, Bahasa Indonesian, Italian, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhalese, Spanish, Tamil, Chinese and Japanese. It can also be read online at [www.indiaperspectives.in](http://www.indiaperspectives.in) and the Ministry's website [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in). It has been decided to bring out India Perspectives Magazines in electronic format to increase the outreach of the magazines and reduce the expenditure involved in printing and circulating the magazines to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

The following Coffee Table books were commissioned during the period:

- Coffee Table Book on Yoga titled "A World for Peace"
- On completion of three years of Government titled, Effective Diplomacy, Excellent Delivery (A4 books and booklets)

123 titles were selected by the 37th Book Committee (fifteen Coffee Table Books, seventy-nine General Books and twenty-nine Children Books). As per demands received from Missions/Posts, a total of 10,391 books costing 72,06,498/- were procured and dispatched to concerned Missions/Posts. 110 titles were selected by the 38th Book Committee (forty-two Coffee Table Books, thirty-four General Books and thirty-four Children Books). As per the demands received from Missions/Posts, a total of 26,073 books costing 2,59,81,858/- were procured and dispatched to concerned Missions.

Sixty titles were selected by the thirty-nine Book Committee (Six Coffee Table Books, thirty-one General Books and twenty-three Children Books). As per demands to be received from Missions/Posts, books will be procured and dispatched to concerned Missions/Posts abroad. A 'Revised Book Committee' under the chairmanship of Minister of State (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar, with experts from various fields including retired Ambassadors has been constituted to advise and selection of books recommend across a cross section of areas such as history, culture, foreign policy, etc., with emphasis on Hindi and regional languages as well.

## Familiarization Visits

In order to enhance awareness about India amongst friendly countries and to encourage media exchanges, XPD Division organises familiarization visits by foreign and Indian journalists.

Visits of journalists from Bangladesh, Mauritius, Nepal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Latin America, Indian-Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Maldives were organized. A special India-Russia Media Forum in the context of the 70th anniversary of India-Russia ties was also organized. Visits of journalists from ASEAN countries under ASEAN-India Media Exchange programme

with budget of ASEAN Secretariat was organised. A visit of thirty- three young Parliamentarians from Africa and a visit from Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation from “Aid to Africa” was also organised during this period. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Panel Session III on “Engagement with Younger Members of Indian Diaspora” chaired by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj and coordinated by XPD Division was organized on 16 December 2017, in coordination with the Overseas Indian Affairs Division. The Division will organize a familiarization visit of twenty journalists/editors from ASEAN countries from 21-28 January 2018, coinciding with the commemoration of twenty-five years of India-ASEAN partnership.



## Foreign Service Institute

### Officer Trainees

The IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2016 batch joined the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) for induction level training after completing their Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in December 2016 for a six-month long training, which ended in June 2017.

The Training Programme of OTs included modules on theories of international relations, foreign policy, bilateral relations with neighbouring countries and big powers and multilateral organizations. Modules on finance, account, administration, establishment, consular work, passport and visa, international law, protocol, economic and commercial diplomacy, defense diplomacy, cyber security, domestic policy, hospitality and media management were also incorporated. Soft power and communication skills were also stressed upon. The Officer Trainees also attended the Raisina Dialogue from 17-19 January 2017 and attended training modules on Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and training and defence security.

Training was delivered through interactive lectures, group discussions, panel discussions, case studies, role playing and simulation and presentations on topical issues to develop creative thinking.

The Officer Trainees went for Bharat Darshan for three weeks, Army, Air Force and Navy attachment one week each and were attached to allotted State for two weeks as part of their training. The Officer trainees visited Indian Embassy Dhaka & Colombo as part of the Mission Attachment module. Calls on the President, Vice President and Prime Minister were also organized for OTs.

A Valedictory function was organized on 29 May 2017, presided over by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma

Swaraj. EAM's Gold Medal for the Best OT of the 2016 Batch, Minister of State (MoS) silver Medal for Overall Personality, Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation, trophy for best book discussion, and trophies for best sportspersons were awarded, on the occasion, to deserving OTs.

The 2017 batch of IFS Officer Trainees are currently attending the Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The thirty seven OTs and 2 Bhutanese diplomats will begin their training at the FSI on 11 December 2017.

### Training Programme for defense attaches

A Training Programme for Defence Attachés (DAs) was organized, for the first time, in FSI from 3-7 April 2017. A total of fifteen participants attended the programme. The second training programme for DAs was conducted from 23-27 October 2017 at FSI.

### Training Programme for Commercial Representatives

The 2nd training programme for Commercial Representatives (CRs) was held in FSI from 17-21 April 2017, two years after the first such programme held in 2015. Twenty five CRs from the Asia-Pacific region participated in the programme.

### Training Programme for First Time HoMs

The second training programme for First Time Heads of Mission (HOMs) was conducted for twenty officers as per the following schedule:

S.No.	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1	4-8 September 2017	Foreign Policy & Administration Module	Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi
2	11-15 September 2017	Management Module	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad

**Mid-Career Training Programme Phase I**

Mid-Career Training Programme-I for 30 Deputy Secretary (DS)/Under Secretary (US) level officers was held for four weeks as per the following schedule:

S.No	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1.	August 21-25, 2017	Foreign Policy Module	Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi
2.	August 28 – September 1, 2017	Domestic Policy Module	Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi
3.	September 4-9, 2017	Management Module	IIM Ahmedabad
4.	October 9-13, 2017	State Attachment	In the allotted State

**Mid-Career Training Programme Phase-II**

Mid-Career Training Programme-II for thirty eight IFS officers of 2001 & 2002 batches was conducted for four weeks as per following schedule:

S.No	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1.	18-22 September 2017	Diplomacy Module	Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA
2.	25-29 September 2017	Management Module	IIM Ahmedabad
3.	3-6 October 2017	State Attachment	In the allotted State
4.	9-13 October 2017	Foreign Policy Module	Foreign Service Institute

**Training Programme for Cabinet Secretariat**

A training programme was conducted at FSI for officers of Cabinet Secretariat from 3-5 October 2017.

**Training Programme for Deputationists**

A two-day training programme was conducted in May 2017 for forty five officials on deputation to MEA.

**Foreign Training Programmes**

FSI also organized a series of training programmes for foreign diplomats in 2017, which are listed below:

- 63rd Professional Course for foreign diplomats was conducted from 29 March-28 April 2017, which was attended by fifty one diplomats.
- Special Course for Bangladeshi diplomats was conducted from 3-20 July 2017, which was attended by 25 diplomats.
- 3rd Special Course for ASEM Diplomats was conducted from 19-25 July 2017, which was attended by thirteen diplomats.

- 11th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats was conducted from 9 August-8 September 2017, which was attended by eighteen diplomats.
- 64th Professional Course for foreign diplomats was conducted from 27 September-27 October 2017, which was attended by forty diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for CARICOM Diplomats was conducted from 13-24 November 2017, which was attended by twenty three diplomats.

**Memoranda of Understanding**

During 2017, FSI signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the following countries:

- German Foreign Service Academy on 30 May 2017.
- Diplomatic School of the Kingdom of Spain on 30 May 2017.
- Institute of Higher Education in Diplomatic and Consular Training of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Dominican Republic on 3 October 2017.

- Training Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Government of the Republic of Italy.

## Non-Representational Grade Training Programme

In 2017 the following training courses were organised as part of the training for Non Representational Grade (NRG) officials:

- MEA Establishment: 5-6 April 2017, attended by twenty one participants.
- Protocol, Hindi and RTI Training Program: 13 April 2017, attended by thirty-five participants.
- Personality Development & Know India Training Program: 20-24 April 2017, attended by twenty-six participants.
- Finance Training Program: 26-27 April 2017, attended by thirty-seven participants.
- Visa and Immigration, Visa and Foreigner's Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) Training Program: 3, 5, 8 & 9 May 2017, attended by sixty participants.
- Typing Test for Direct Assistant Section Officer (ASO): 28 March 2017, attended by 101 participants.
- Accounts Training Program: 11-12 May 2017, attended by thirty-four participants.
- 66th Integrated Management and Accounting System (IMAS) Training Program: 15-19 May and on 22, 25, 26, 29 & 30 May 2017, attended by thirty-one participants.
- Promotion related training program for Section Officer and Private Secretaries: 23-24 May 2017, attended by twenty-eight participants.
- Re-test Integrated Missions Accounting System (IMAS): 9 June 2017, attended by twelve participants.
- Basic computer, IT network and security training program: 6-8 June 2017, attended by forty-eight participants.
- Consular training program: 13-14 June 2017, attended by twenty-two participants.
- Re-test visa and Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT): 19 June 2017, attended by eight participants.
- Passport & Pride Training Program: 20-21 June 2017 attended by eighteen participants.
- Trade promotion and commercial work and e-Procurement: 27-28 June 2017, attended by twenty four participants.
- Promotion related training program for stenographers, Senior Secretariat Assistant (SSA), Junior Secretariat Assistant (JSA): 13-14 July 2017, attended by fifteen participants.
- Promotion related training programme for Personal Assistant (PA) to Private Secretary (PS) Grade, Assistant Section Officer (ASO) to Section Officer (SO) Grade: 4-5 July 2017, attended by thirty-nine participants.
- Typing test for directly recruited ASOs: 18 July 2017, attended by sixty one participants.
- Visa & IVFRT Training Program: 20-26 July 2017, attended by seventy one participants.
- Promotion related training program for Section Officer/Private Secretaries: 3-4 August 2017, attended by twenty three participants.
- Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) training program: 10-17 August 2017, attended by forty-three participants.
- Accounts training program: 28-29 August 2017, attended by eighty-seven participants.
- 67th I -MAS training program: 30 August-5 September 2017, attended by thirty participants.
- 67th I -MAS Training Program: 7-13 September 2017, attended by thirty participants.
- 67th I -MAS Training Program: 14-19 September 2017, attended by thirty-one participants.
- 67th I -MAS Training Program: 22-28 September 2017, attended by twenty-six participants.
- I – MAS Re-test: 6 October 2017, attended by sixteen participants.
- Induction training program Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR): 9-17 October 2017, attended by twenty-five participants.
- Visa & IVFRT: 23-27 October 2017, attended by eighty-nine participants.
- Promotion related training program steno/SSA/JSA: 8-9 November 2017, attended by nineteen participants.



## Know India Programme

In addition to the above programmes, FSI also conducted two-day orientation programme for the participants of “Know India Programme”. This programme is for Indian Diaspora Youth. The main purpose of Know India Programme is to reconnect Indian Diaspora youth with their Indian roots, heritage and culture and to promote awareness about different facets of contemporary India. The list of these programmes is given below:

- Forty-one Know India Programme, 4-5 September 2017 attended by forty participants.
- Forty-two Know India Programme, 3 October 2017 attended by forty participants.
- Forty-three Know India Programme, 2-3 November 2017 attended by forty participants.

## Nalanda Division

The international footprint of Nalanda University increased during 2017 and at present it has nearly forty international students from various countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Greece, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, UK, USA, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. The ideals of Nalanda are bound to attract more students in the years to come.

The year 2017 marked the consolidation of University's management with appointment of Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, the renowned Computer Scientist as the Chancellor of Nalanda University. Dr. Vijay Bhatkar is one of the most acclaimed scientists of India and he is best known as the architect of development of India's first supercomputer 'Param'. Under his leadership, the University is expected to attain greater heights and glory. Professor Sunaina Singh has been appointed the Vice

Chancellor of Nalanda University in 2017. Earlier, she served as Vice Chancellor of English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.

The construction of Nalanda University's permanent campus – Phase I is in progress, with work on tender package 1A for construction of internal roads and earthwork for water bodies, nearing completion. Work on tender package 1B (construction of administrative and academic buildings) is underway and expected to be completed in early 2020. The University is working on tender package 1C (construction of residential buildings) for which the tender notice is to be issued shortly. The Government is fully committed to the development of Nalanda University as an international institution of excellence for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical and historical studies and for matters connected therewith.



## Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has a comprehensive scheme for promotion and propagation of Hindi Language through Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Financial assistance is provided through Missions/Posts abroad to foreign universities and educational institutions for organizing Hindi promotion activities. Financial assistance is also given to Missions/Posts abroad to conduct Hindi teaching classes and undertake activities like celebrating World Hindi Day and other events to promote Hindi. Hindi teaching material is supplied to Missions/Posts for presentation to educational institutions and organizations involved in the teaching and promotion of Hindi.

The (MEA) organises World Hindi Conference every three years. The last World Hindi Conference was held at Bhopal, India from 10-12 September 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Conference. More than 7000 participants including a large number of foreign delegates attended the inaugural and concluding ceremonies of the Conference. 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. To ensure effective and speedy implementation of the recommendations passed at the 10th World Hindi Conference organised in Bhopal, a Committee has been formed under the Chairpersonship of External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, which meets at the regular interval of three months to review implementation of the recommendations. In addition, the MEA also organises Regional Hindi Conferences through our Missions abroad with the association of local organisers involved in the promotion of Hindi and Indian culture.

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. The MEA and its Mauritian counterpart in the Government of Mauritius coordinate functioning of the Secretariat.

The MEA also coordinates work relating to grant of scholarships for foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. There is a provision of awarding 100 scholarships every year.

Implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry in 2017. The Ministry had organised Hindi Pakhwara commencing from Hindi Diwas on 14 September 2017. Regional Passport offices as well as Missions abroad organised various Hindi competitions on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. World Hindi Day is celebrated in all our Missions/Posts abroad as well as at the Headquarters on 10 January every year. Special grants have been sanctioned to Missions/Posts abroad for organising these activities.

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, the Ministry regularly conducts inspection of Regional Passport Offices to take stock of the progressive use of the Official language in Official Business.

## Indian Council for Cultural Relations

As part of its academic and intellectual activities, ICCR offered 3,452 scholarship slots for studying in India under its various scholarship schemes. An Orientation Programme for newly arrived scholars for the academic year 2017-18 was organized on 18 October 2017. It was attended by ICCR scholars studying in various colleges and universities in Delhi, Ambassadors of various countries as well as International Students Advisors of the University located in New Delhi. Apart from the above, Afghanistan-India Cultural Week Festival was organized from 29 November - 1 December 2017, as part of Students Exchange Programme.

ICCR has seventy eight operational Chairs of Indian Studies covering languages and other aspects of India in Universities abroad. MoUs with various universities abroad have been signed for twelve new Chairs. Besides, the Council provided financial grants to three foreign Universities/Institutions to promote Indian Culture and administering three local Hindi Teachers in Poland to propagate Hindi Language. 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 four international conferences/seminars including “Dara Shikoh: Reclaiming Spiritual Legacy of India” in New Delhi during 27 & 28 April 2017, which was inaugurated by Minister of State (MoS) Shri M. J. Akbar; “Sanskrit, as repository of wisdom and fountainhead of harmonious world order” in Paris, France during 18-23 June 2017; “Mirza Bedil and His Legacy” in collaboration with Punjab University, Chandigarh during 22 & 23 July 2017 in Chandigarh inaugurated by MoS Shri M. J. Akbar. (During the conference, an exhibition 'Tarz -e- Bedil' and cultural event namely 'Bazm-e-Bedil' were also organised); and 'Aparigraha: Philosophy, Practice and its Relevance in the Era of Consumerism' in Jaipur during 28 & 29 October 2017, inaugurated by Smt Riva Ganguly Das, Director General, ICCR.

Apart from the above, the Council supported eleven Conferences and Seminars in India and abroad as well as organised a Virat Hindi Kavi Sammelan in various cities of the UK from 23 August - 3 September 2017.



## Indian Council of World Affairs

The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, economic and security development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and Caribbean, and the wider global geo-strategic environments. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, Discussion Papers, Shodh Lekh (शोध लेख) which were published on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA continued the process of translating its academic outputs in Hindi which have been regularly posted on its website. In addition, since April 2017, the Council has published 5 books, and 1 Sapru House Paper. Efforts are under way to revamp the Council's website to make it more user friendly. ICWA has also opened its library for general public and membership rules have been eased.

In lines with its mandate ICWA conducted a large number of events, lectures, conferences and outreach activities.

### Research

The current strength of the Research Faculty is as follows:

- |                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| a) Director (Research)   | 1  |
| b) Research Fellows      | 24 |
| c) Research Interns (RI) | 3  |

During the period under review, the Research Faculty of the Council produced 4 Policy Briefs, 62 Issue Briefs, 27 View Points, 10 Shodh Lekh (शोध लेख) and various articles in the media and other academic journals. The ICWA Fellows undertook study and research on subjects of all major political, security, and economic trends and developments in foreign policy and in international affairs. Country specific policy studies were undertaken at the Council on China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, USA, and Russia. In addition, studies on multilateral and regional groupings such as NATO, NAFTA, APEC, G-20, BRICS and IBSA were also undertaken. Special studies were done on contemporary issues viz. Indian ocean economy, terrorism, development partnerships, cyber security

and international economic order. The Council also tried to diversify its area of research and Book Projects to include newer areas such as Technology and International Relations, Media and Foreign Policy, Science and Diplomacy, India and the IMF, Latin America and the South Caucasus. The Council also took initiatives to fulfil the requirements of the Ministry by undertaking special studies and projects (total 8). Briefs/Reports/Discussion papers were submitted to various stakeholders including the MEA.

ICWA Research Faculty was encouraged to write articles in Hindi and 10 such Shodh Lekh (शोध लेख) have been uploaded on the Council's website. In order to reach out to a wider audience, ICWA continued to publish translated versions of its academic articles in Hindi. In pursuit of this objective, 7 Issue Briefs have been translated in Hindi and uploaded on the Council's website. ICWA instituted the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme (in Hindi) and sponsored seminars in collaboration with universities/academic institutions, where it was represented by one or more RFs

As part of its outreach activities and to create awareness about foreign policy issues among the youth, ICWA undertook two National Level Essay writing contests among school going students (10-12 standard), and undergraduate & postgraduate students. More than 766 essays were received. The winners in both categories, decided on the basis of evaluation by a committee of four referees, will shortly be invited to a felicitation ceremony at Sapru House in February 2018. ICWA as part of its Faculty outreach initiative has been taking its Research Faculty to different colleges and universities across India to give lectures to the students on topics of importance so as to promote and publicise the foreign policy initiatives undertaken by the government. This year, under the University Workshop Programme, two RFs visited Central University of Karnataka (17 April, 2017) and interacted with the faculty and students and apprised them of the current development in India's neighbourhood and also international affairs. ICWA has received more such requests from Jammu University, Karnataka University, Central University of Jharkhand and IGNOU.

## Publications

Various ICWA's publications were brought out regularly during the period as per details provided below:

- ICWA's Journal 'India Quarterly' was brought out regularly during the period April 2017- December 2017.
- ICWA's Manuscripts published during the period April 2017- December 2017.

- I) India Quarterly (A Journal of International Affairs)  
Vol-73 No.2, June, 2017
- ii) India Quarterly (A Journal of International Affairs)  
Vol-73 No.3, September, 2017

S.No	Title	Editor/Author	Year of Publication
<b>I Books (under ICWA Book Project)</b>			
01.	Technology and International Relations: Challenges for the 21st Century	Author by Amb. Bhaskar Balakrishnan	2017
02.	Squaring The Circle: Mahatma Gandhi and the Jewish National Home	Authored By Prof. P R Kumaraswamy	2017
03.	Media And Foreign Policy in India	Author by Ms. Shubha Singh	2017
04.	Regional Satraps and the Battle for India Foreign Policy	Authored by Ms. Kalyani Shankar	2017
05.	India-Iran Relations Under the Shadow of the Iranian Nuclear Issue: Challenges for India's Diplomacy	Authored by Dr. Asif Shuja	2017
<b>II Sapru House Paper</b>			
06.	Current Arab Crisis and Emerging Scenario	Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui	2017

## List of Book Projects under process

1. China and the Eurasian Region: Edited by Amb. C.V. Ranganathan and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA.
2. Rise of Neighbourhood in Chinese Foreign Policy" Author by:- Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA.
3. India's Cultural Diplomacy in 21st Century – Authored by -Amb. Paramjit Singh Sahai
4. India-EU Relations: Current Problems, Future Challenges and the Way Forward- Authored by -Amb. Bhaswati Mukherjee.
5. नेपाल का संवैधानिक विकास- लेखक - डॉ. राकेश कुमार मीना

## ICWA Confernces/Seminars/& other activities

ICWA's outreach programmes included joint conferences and seminars with several Indian universities and think tanks including Council's MoU partners across the country. Likewise, international engagements included participation in conferences, seminars and lectures in several countries.

From 1 April, 2017 to 15 January, 2018, the ICWA organized the following events :-

Lectures	-	11
Seminars/Conferences	-	18
Bilateral strategic dialogue	-	10
Panel Discussions/Background briefings	-	03
Book Launch/Release/Discussion function	-	01
<b>Total</b>		<b>43</b>

## Lectures

10 August 2017	Talk by Hon. Patrick Pillay, Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles on " <i>Cohabitation in Government – Importance of its Success</i> " Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
26 August 2017	One day Lecture- Discussion on "Turmoil and Terror in West Asia : India's Engagement with the gulf and Israel" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Organized by the Asia Centre Bangalore Venue: Asia Centre Bangalore, No.-752, 33rd "A" Cross, 9th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011.
30 August 2017	Talk by Prof. David Arase on 'China's Vision of an Asian 'Community of Common Destiny' Chaired by: Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, Acting Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
29 September 2017	24th Sapru House Lecture by His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on "Regional Peace-Building" Chaired by: Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Venue: Sapru House Auditorium
10 October 2017	Talk by H.E. Dr. Michael Oren, Deputy Minister for Diplomacy in the Prime Minister's Office, Israel on "Israel foreign Relations" Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
30 October 2017	25th Sapru House Lecture by H. E. Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia on "New Tunisia: An Emerging Democracy in an Age of Challenges and Global Threats" Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
3 November 2017	Talk by H.E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom on "UK and Brexit" Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
7 November 2017	26th Sapru House Lecture by H. E. Mrs. Maria Angela Holguin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia on "Colombia: a second opportunity on Earth" Chaired by: Ambassador (Dr.) Sheel Kant Sharma Member, Governing Body & Governing Council of ICWA and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies Venue: Sapru House

8-9 December 2017	Two days Lecture- Discussion on "Evolving Global order and International Relations: Perspectives from the Global South" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by the Goa University Venue: Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa-403206.
28 December 2017	27th Sapru House Lecture by H. E. Mr. Ayman Al Safadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on "The Middle East at Crossroads: The Challenges of Achieving Peace and Security" Chaired by: Ambassador Shashank, Former Foreign Secretary of India and Member of the Governing Council of ICWA Venue: Sapru House
8 January 2018	Talk by Hon. Wavel Ramkalawan, Leader of Opposition of Seychelles on "Seychelles of my dreams" Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House

## Seminars/Conferences

17 April 2017	ICWA-University outreach programme Interaction cum Workshop on India Foreign Policy at Central University of Karnataka (CUB) Outreach programme supported by ICWA Organized by ICWA and Department of Social Work, CUB, Karnataka Venue: Karnataka
19 April 2017	Video-Conference Roundtable on International and Bilateral issues with Russia First event in a series of five events to be organized by the Council to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India (April 13, 1947 – April 13, 2017), following the Joint Goa Declaration "Roadmap of Events dedicated to the 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India (April 13, 1947-April 13, 2017)", agreed between President Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the former's visit to India in October, 2016 Venue: Sapru House
20-21 April 2017	Two-day International Seminar entitled, "Internal Changes in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities." Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA Organized by Centre for International Relations, Central University of Jharkhand, Brambe, Ranchi Venue: Ranchi, Jharkhand



25-26 May 2017	First BRICS Think Tanks Forum on Pragmatic Cooperation organised by the Centre for BRICS Studies, Fudan University Venue: Shanghai, China
8-9 June 2017	2017 BRICS Think-Tanks Forum: "The Coordination Between BRICS Development Strategies: the Way to the Common Prosperity" organized by the National Institute for Global Strategy (NIGS), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and University of International Relations (UIR) Venue: Beijing, China
11-14 June 2017	BRICS Think-Tank Forum organized by International Department, Central Committee of Communist Party of China (CPC) in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China Venue: Fuzhou, China
16 June 2017	2nd Rangsit China Forum on "China's Grand Strategy and Its Implications for Southeast Asia" organized by the Rangsit University in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
3-4 July 2017	Two days International Conference on "Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Organized by the Zakir Husain Delhi College (University of Delhi) Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002. Venue: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi-110011.
24-26 July 2017	International Conference on "South China Sea : Emerging World Order" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by the UGC Centre For Southeast Asian & Pacific Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati-517502, (A.P.) (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
12-13 October 2017	Russia-India International Conference on "Strategic Visions of Russia-India Relations and Changes in the World Order" 70th Anniversary of Russia-India diplomatic relations to be organized by the Russia International Affairs Council (RIAC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia Third event in a series of five events to be organized by the Council to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India (April 13, 1947 – April 13, 2017) Venue: Moscow, Russia

12-13 October 2017	<p>Two days National Seminar on "Strategic approach towards Indian Foreign Policy: Issues and Challenges"</p> <p>Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: ICWA Representative Dr. Dinoj Kumar Upadhyay, RF, ICWA To be organized by M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology Venue: M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology, M S Ramaiah Nagar, MSRIT Post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560054.</p>
8-10 November 2017	<p>Three days International Conference on "India-Bangladesh Relationship in the 21st Century"</p> <p>Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by the University of Kalyani, Department of Political Science Venue: University of Kalyani, District Nadia, Kalyani, West Bengal, - 741235.</p>
21 November 2017	<p>3rd Australia-India-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on Indian Ocean (TDIO-III) Venue: Sapru House</p>
24-25 November 2017	<p>ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy The workshop is being organized jointly by MEA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam under ASEAN-India cooperation. ICWA and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) are lead think-tanks for this workshop from Indian and ASEAN side respectively Venue: Nha Trang, Vietnam</p>
4-5 December 2017	<p>Second Meeting of Heads of Think-Tanks (HoTT) 2017 of India and Russia in New Delhi ICWA lead a delegation of important think-tanks and scholars/experts Fourth event in a series of five events to be organized by the Council to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India (April 13, 1947 – April 13, 2017) Venue: Sapru House</p>
4-5 December 2017	<p>International Conference on "India-ASEAN towards Greater Partnership" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Organized by the UGC Centre for Southeast Asia and Pacific Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati Venue: Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.</p>
8-9 December 2017	<p>Two days International Conference on "Changing Dynamics in SAARC : Challenges and Opportunities in The Region" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by NES Ratnam College of Arts, Science &amp; Commerce, University of Mumbai, Bhandup (W), Mumbai Venue: NES Ratnam College of Arts, Science &amp; Commerce, University of Mumbai, Bhandup (W), Mumbai -400078.</p>
16 December 2017	<p>Seminar on "India and Russia-Remoulding a Time-tested Relationship" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by Asia Centre, Bangalore Venue: Asia Centre Bangalore, Bangalore.</p>

## Bilateral and Strategic Dialogue

7 April, 2017	Second Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)-China Soong Ching Ling Foundation (CSCLF) Roundtable Second ICWA-CSCLF Roundtable Visit of CSCLF delegation to ICWA (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Sapru House
10 April 2017	Meeting with the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) delegation led by Prof. Nguyen Quang Thuan, President of VASS Venue: Sapru House
24 May 2017	Meeting with a delegation from the Centre for Policy Development and Analysis on Asia Pacific and African Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia led by Dr. Arifi Saiman, Head of the Centre Venue: Sapru House
15 June 2017	Roundtable on Indo-Russian Relations hosted by the Russian Diplomatic Academy in Moscow Second event in a series of five events to be organized by the Council to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India (April 13, 1947 – April 13, 2017) Venue: Russia
22-27 June 2017	Second India-China Think Tanks Forum in China Theme: “China-India Strategic Cooperation and Development Partnership” A bilateral platform established by an MoU signed between MEA and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China in May, 2015. Venue: China
11 August 2017	Meeting with the delegation from Centre for Indian Studies, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi, Vietnam Chaired by: Shri Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
5 October 2017	Interaction between Dr. Jakkie Cilliers, Founder and Executive Director of the Institute of Security Studies of South Africa and Research Faculty of ICWA Chaired by: Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
9 October 2017	Interaction between Mr. Mohammed Tawfik Mouline, Director General of the Royal Institute of Strategic Studies (IRES), Rabat, Morocco and Research Faculty of ICWA Venue: Sapru House
9-11 November 2017	Inaugural Dialogue with Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) Visit of ICWA delegation to VASS (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Hanoi, Vietnam

29 November 2017	<p>FUNCTION to commemorate the “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”</p> <p>Keynote Address by: Ambassador Shashank, Former Foreign Secretary of India and Member of the Governing Council of ICWA</p> <p>Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA</p> <p>Venue: Sapru House</p>
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### Panel Discussions/Background briefings

7 November 2017	<p>Brainstorming Session with the delegation from Reconsidering European Contributions to Global Justice (GLOBUS) [C/o. O.P. Jindal Global University]</p> <p>Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA</p> <p>Venue: Sapru House</p>
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18 December 2017	<p>Round Table Discussion with the visiting 16 member Korean delegation of academics from Sejong Institute's Centre for China Studies, the Sejong Institute</p> <p>Venue: Sapru House</p>
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15 January 2018	<p>Meeting with Dr. Dan Schueftan - Director of the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa, Israel</p> <p>Chaired by: Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, ICWA</p> <p>Venue: Sapru House</p>
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### Book Launch/Release/Discussion event

19 June 2017	<p>Book Discussion event on the publication 'Whither Indian Ocean Maritime Order?' – Edited by Ambassador Yogendra Kumar</p> <p>Discussants: Ambassador Shyam Saran, former Foreign Secretary of India; and Dr. Manoj Joshi, Distinguished Fellow, ORF</p> <p>Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA</p> <p>Venue: Sapru House</p>
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### Planned events 16 January 2018 onwards

18-19 January 2018	<p>IAFS-III: Second ICWA India-Africa Annual Academic Conference on 'India's Interface with EAC and SADC Countries: Partnering for Security, Stability and Development'</p> <p>Venue: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</p>
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24-25 January 2018	Two day national conference on "India's Foreign Policy with Neighbouring Countries" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by Vivekanandha College of Arts and Science for Women, Tamil Nadu Venue: Tamil Nadu
7-8 February 2018	National Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Globalisation and Regionalism" Venue: Sapru House
8-9 February 2018	Two day National Seminar on "Indian Democracy at 70: Challenges Ahead" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by Department of Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Chakradharpur, Jharkhand Venue: Jharkhand.
15 February 2018	Visit of Hon'ble VP to ICWA Release of ICWA's Five publications: by Hon'ble Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Vice President of India and President, ICWA
15-16 February 2018	International Conference on "India and Africa: An Afro-Asian Perspective" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by the Jamia Millia Islamia Venue: New Delhi
20 February 2018	Lecture by Prof. Danilo Turk, Former President of Slovenia on 'Global Water Challenges'
22-23 February 2018	Two days International Conference on "India's Foreign Policy and its Impact on Trade Relation with Emerging Economics" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by Pondicherry University Venue: School of Management Auditorium, Pondicherry University, Puducherry-605014.
February 2018	International Seminar on "BRICS: Relevance, Challenges and the Road Ahead" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA To be organized by the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Sector 'O' Aliganj Housing Scheme, Lucknow-226024 Venue: Lucknow
6-7 March 2018	Second ICWA-Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies (TASAM) Dialogue and Dialogue with Centre Asia Strategic Research (SAM) (ICWA's MoU partners) [in collaboration with the Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies (TASAM)] Venue: Ankara/Istanbul

09-10 March, 2018	National Conference on "India's Foreign Policy in the contemporary world" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Regional Campus, Makhan, Kangpokpi Dist. Venue : Manipur-795136
12-13 March of 2018	Sixth ICWA- Polish Institute for International Affairs (PISM) Conference Visit of PISM delegation to ICWA (ICWA's MoU partner) in collaboration with the Polish Institute for International Affairs (PISM)] Venue: Sapru House
12-14 March 2018	Three day International Conference on "Shifting sands in West Asia: Culture, Economy and Polity" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by the Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai Venue: Mumbai.
14-15 March 2018	ICWA- Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute of Diplomatic Studies (PSAIDS), Saudi Arab Dialogue Visit of PSAIDS delegation to ICWA (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Sapru House
19-20 March 2018	International Conference on "Young Scholars Forum 2018 (The Age of Multilateralism and India's North East: Contradictions, Confluences and The Way Forward)" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized jointly by the ICWA and Asian Confluence (A Unit of Divya Jeevan Foundation), Shillong, Meghalaya Venue: Sapru House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001.
26-28 March 2018	First Bilateral Seminar with The Alexandre de Gusmao Foundation (FUNAG), Brazil on "Brazil-India: 70 years of Diplomatic Relations" and the Second ICWA-LAC International Conference on the theme "India and Latin America & the Caribbean: Strengthening the Partnership" Visit of ICWA delegation to FUNAG (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Brazil
March 2018	Fifth "India-Central Asia Dialogue" Venue: Uzbekistan

## 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.

During the period from 1 April - 31 December, 2017, the Council participated in the following activities:

- 1) CSCAP Workshop on Cyber Security held in Semarang, Indonesia on April 4-5, 2017.
- 2) 2nd Meeting of CSCAP Study Group on Peacekeeping Operations held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from May 18-19, 2017.
- 3) 31st Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 22-24, 2017.

- 4) 47th Steering Committee Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 24-25, 2017.
- 5.) CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Nonproliferation and Disarmament held in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 26-27, 2017
- 6) 3rd CSCAP SGM on Peacekeeping Operation held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on November 19-21, 2017
- 7) 48th Steering Committee Meeting of CSCAP held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on December 12-13, 2017
- 8) 11th CSCAP General Conference of CSCAP held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on December 13-15, 2017

## 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 1,48,872 books, journals, maps, and UN & EU documents at present. It is expected that approximately 620 more books would be added to the library collection by 31 March 2018. 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](http://www.icwa.in) and global webcasting of important events has been helpful in achieving the ICWA mandate.

## Research and Information System for Developing Countries

### Prime Minister of India Lauds Vision Document on “Asia Africa Growth Corridor”, 23 May 2017

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his address at the inauguration of the Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on 23 May 2017 at Ahmedabad, India underlined: “I gladly recall my detailed conversation with Prime Minister Abe during my visit to Tokyo. We discussed our commitments for enhancing growth prospects for all. In our joint declaration, we mentioned an Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), and proposed further conversations with our brothers and sisters from Africa. India and Japanese research institutions have come up with a Vision Document. I congratulate RIS (Research and Information System for Developing Countries), ERIA (The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia) and IDE-JETRO (Institute of Developing Economies – Japan External Trade Organisation) for their efforts in putting it together. This was done in consultation with think-tanks from Africa. I understand the Vision Document would be presented at the Board meeting later. The idea is that India and Japan, with other willing partners, would explore joint initiatives in skills, health, infrastructure, manufacturing and connectivity”.

The Vision Document entitled ‘Asia Africa Growth Corridor – Partnership for Sustainable and Innovative Development’ was launched at a side event held during the Annual Meeting of Africa Development Bank held in Ahmedabad on 22-26 May 2017.

### Relationship with ASEAN Foundation for our Act East Policy - Smt Sushma Swaraj, 22 June 2017

To commemorate twenty-five years of ASEAN-India Partnership, RIS and ASEAN India Centre (AIC) at RIS invited External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj, to

deliver the Keynote Address on “ASEAN-India Partnership” on 22 June 2017 at New Delhi. Over 500 participants attended the event. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave welcome remarks. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS gave the Introductory remarks.

In her keynote address, Smt Sushma Swaraj discussed many aspects of India’s strategic partnership with ASEAN. India is working with ASEAN towards evolving regional security architecture in the Asia-Pacific that hinges on peaceful settlement of disputes, finding collaborative solutions to emerging and non-traditional challenges, and support for the centrality of ASEAN. She reiterated that India is actively engaged in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations involving ASEAN and its six FTA partners, which, when finalized, would be the largest regional trading arrangement, accounting for about 40 per cent of the world trade. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) said that efforts were on to enhance connectivity by land, air and sea to transform corridors of connectivity into corridors of economic cooperation.

As the north-east region is a ‘natural partner’ in India’s Act East Policy, the EAM highlighted that for enhancement of digital connectivity, specific proposals have been put forward, involving setting up of a regional high-capacity fibre-optic network, supplemented by national rural broadband networks and digital villages in remote areas.

### Roundtable Discussion on 25 Years of ASEAN-India Partnership, 22 June 2017

The RIS and ASEAN India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly organised a Roundtable on “25 Years of ASEAN- India Partnership” on 22 June 2017 at New Delhi. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave welcome address. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS chaired the Session. Ambassador Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India gave special remarks. ASEAN Ambassadors, Indian



Ambassadors, Academicians and Researchers were participants. Professor Prabir De made a presentation on 25 years of ASEAN-India relations, covering trade, investment, connectivity and cultural linkages. All ASEAN Heads of Mission shared their opinions.

## Delhi Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In recent years, South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Development Cooperation (TDC) have evolved as major forms of engagement across the South. With this, the modalities and dimensions of engagements have also multiplied. This has assumed greater importance with the launching of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). RIS has been on the forefront of bringing together all stakeholders to deliberate on these issues for a better understanding of the emerging global architecture. In order to carry forward the process of discussing SSC further, RIS organized the Delhi Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation on 24 & 25 August 2017 in New Delhi. This was the third Conference in the series that RIS started in 2013.

The inaugural session began with the welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India, New Delhi. Ambassador Hardeep S Puri, Chairperson, RIS chaired the session. Mr. Jorge Chediek, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, New York, and Professor Li Xiaoyun, China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Beijing and Chairman Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) also presented their point of views during the session. Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development, New Delhi, made special remarks. Smt Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA, Government of India, delivered the inaugural address. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, former President, Republic of Maldives, delivered the valedictory address. The detailed agenda of the Conference is available at the RIS website: [www.ris.org.in](http://www.ris.org.in)

The representations by forty-one think-tanks from the Global South and the diverse range of seventy-four eminent speakers from the North and the South, together with the presence of more than 250 registered participants shared their perspectives on how to make SSC more effective and work towards the gains of combining it with Triangular Cooperation.

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Integral Humanism

As part of national events to commemorate Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Centenary Year, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Deendayal Research Institute jointly organized the National Seminar on SDGs and Integral Humanism on 23 & 24 September 2017 at New Delhi. The programme began with welcome remarks by Shri Atul Jain, General Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog chaired the inaugural session. Shri Ram Madhav, Director, India Foundation delivered the keynote address. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Culture and Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India also addressed the inaugural session.

On the second day of the event, a session was dedicated to 'SDGs and Integral Humanism: The Way Forward'. It began with welcome remarks by Shri Atul Jain, General Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) presented the outcome of the discussions that took place on day one. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog delivered the welcome address. Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MoS (Independent Charge) for Culture and MoS in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was the distinguished guest. Shri Virendrajeet Singh, Chairman, Deendayal Research Institute, extended the vote of thanks.

## Inaugural Lecture of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum

'Make in India', 'Skill India', 'Digital India' and 'Start-up India' are some of the new initiatives taken by the government for harnessing science, technology and innovation. The government and political leadership are emphasising on making India a global leader in science and technology. The fruitful gains of the science and technology would lead to positive outcomes in different sectors – industry, agriculture, health-care and education. For accelerating pace of growth of

science and technology, the potential of the national innovation system, comprising R&D institutions, including universities, technology institutions, industry, government and other policy-making bodies, has to be enhanced.

RIS, too is committed to promote and enhance science-society connect. Keeping this broad perspective in view, RIS, in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre (IHC) and other institutions working on the Science and Technology (S&T) issues, launched a Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum. The other partner institutions are: The Energy Research Institute (TERI), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA) and Vigyan Prasar.

The Forum has been founded with the objectives of promoting informed debate on the different aspects of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, and has planned a monthly Lecture Series to act as a broader public platform for interactions. The Forum is bridging the gap between science and the society through dissemination of the information on developments in S&T as well as through kindling debate of societal aspirations and expectations from S&T and Innovation. Under the monthly Lecture Series, a partner institution takes the lead to organize a lecture by a renowned expert.

The RIS and the India Habitat Centre organized the inaugural lecture of the STIP Forum Lecture Series jointly on 26 September 2017. Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India, delivered the lecture and presented his thoughts on the “Sustainable Development: Role of Science, Technology and Innovation”. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Shri Rakesh Kacker, Director, IHC; Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Director, IFCPAR/ CEFIPRA; and Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Distinguished Fellow & Senior Director, TERI, also presented their views regarding the importance and the role of the STIP Forum.

## **South-South Global Thinkers Initiative, 14 July 2017**

A special event on the South-South Global Thinkers Initiative and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNDP and NeST and Workshop on Impact Assessment for South-South Cooperation was organised on 14 July 2017 at UN Headquarters New York. Ms. Simona Marinescu, Director, Development Impact Group, Bureau for

Policy and Programme Support, UNDP chaired the signing ceremony. Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP and Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS delivered welcome and opening remarks. They also signed a MoU between UNDP and RIS. Mr. Jorge Chediek, UN Secretary General’s Envoy on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and Ambassador Tanmay Lal, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to UN conveyed congratulatory remarks.

## **Learning South-South Cooperation**

RIS conducted the Capacity Building Programme on “Learning South-South Cooperation” under the ITEC/SCAAP (Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme/Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme) Programme of the MEA from 13-24 November 2017 at RIS, New Delhi. More than twenty-nine participants from twenty-two different Southern countries participated in the programme. Besides exposing the participants to some examples in Development Cooperation, the programme covered modules on Development Cooperation; theoretical backgrounders; Development Compact: the modalities; different actors in SSC; India’s role in SSC: A Sectoral Perspective and Global Opportunities for SSC and Challenges in Assessing SSC.

## **Panel Discussion on Approaches to Development Cooperation: Scope for New Partnerships**

RIS, NeST and FIDC (Finance and Industry Development Council) organised a Panel Discussion on “Approaches to Development Cooperation: Scope for New Partnerships” on 13 November 2017 in New Delhi as part of the ITEC Programme on ‘Learning South-South Cooperation’ held at RIS from 13-24 November 2017. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS chaired. Shri Gaddam Dharmendra, Joint Secretary (PP&R), MEA; Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative in India; Mr. Gavin McGillivray, Head, DFID (Department for International Development) India, British High Commission; and Smt Indrani Bagchi, Senior Editor, The Times of India Group were the distinguished panelists.

## Transforming India: Eradicating Poverty, Promoting Prosperity

RIS, jointly with NITI Aayog and UN, organised a Panel Discussion on ‘Transforming India: Eradicating Poverty, Promoting Prosperity’ on 17 July 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Professor Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog; Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, Columbia University; Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS; Professor T.C.A. Anant, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India; Shri Anupam Kher, UN Ambassador for Gender Equality; and Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative of India to UN were the eminent panelists. A large number of participants took part in the discussion.

## AAGC and the National Development Priorities of Tunisia

The Vision Document on Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) was released at the Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank held at Ahmedabad on 22-25 May 2017. RIS, along with various institutions, has initiated a major research work programme on AAGC. The idea is to explore the possibilities for evolving a framework for projects that are going to contribute to the success of this growth corridor. It was in this connection, RIS invited Mr. Nejmeddine Lakhel, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia for the first interactive discussion meeting on ‘AAGC and the National Development Priorities of Tunisia’ at RIS on 6 July 2017. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS chaired the interactive session. Ambassador Amar Sinha, former Secretary (ER), MEA presided over the meeting. A large number of participants representing African Missions in India, academic, business and industry circles also actively participated.

## Asia Africa Growth Corridor: The Way Forward

RIS and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a consultation on ‘Asia Africa Growth Corridor: The Way Forward’ on 25 August 2017 at New Delhi. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks; Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS chaired the meeting. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary, MEA made special remarks. Mr. Sidharto R. Suryodipuro, Ambassador-

designate of Indonesia; Professor Diran Makinde, Senior Adviser, NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development) Industrialization Science, Technology & Innovation Hub (NISTIH), South Africa; and Dr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII also addressed the inaugural session.

## Industry Consultation on AAGC

RIS and CII organized an Industry Consultation on the ‘Asia Africa Growth Corridor’ (AAGC) on 18 August 2017 at New Delhi. The programme started with the initial remarks by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave a presentation on the AAGC followed by remarks of Mr. S. Kuppuswamy, Advisor, Group Finance and Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Pvt. Ltd.

In the open discussion, the main topics were: Infrastructure, Agriculture, Health and Automobile sector. Prominent speakers included Shri Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs. Shri Pranav Kumar, Director, International Trade Policy, CII, extended the vote of thanks.

## Consultation Meeting on AAGC

In order to discuss further the AAGC Vision Document, RIS jointly with ERIA and IDE-JETRO organised a consultation meeting on 30 August 2017 at Tokyo. The RIS team that participated in this meeting included: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Harpreet Sandhu, ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research); Smt Ruchita Beri, IDSA (Institute for Defense Studies & Analyses); Dr. Soumya Chattopadhyay, ADB (Asian Development Bank); Professor Dr. Selva Kumar, Tamil University; Professor Santosh Mehrotra, JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University); Dr. T.P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow; Professor T.C. James, Visiting Fellow and Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Research Associate.

Mid-Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020)

RIS, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce organized a Mid-Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020) on 6 May 2017 at New Delhi. In the inaugural session, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry chaired the meeting and addressed the gathering. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi,

Director General, RIS; Smt Rita Teaotia, Commerce Secretary, made initial remarks, followed by remarks made by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS. Shri A. K. Bhalla, Director General of Foreign Trade, (DGFT) and Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Professor at RIS also gave the presentations.

## **Regional Consultation on 'Development of North East India and India's Act East Policy: A Quest for Synergy**

RIS, MEA, FIDC, FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) and Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN) Society, Guwahati jointly organized the Regional Consultation on 'Development of North East India and India's Act East Policy: A Quest for Synergy' on 24 & 25 October 2017 in Guwahati, Assam. The programme began with welcome address by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr. Amiya Sharma, Executive Director, Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN) Society, Guwahati. Shri Naveen Verma, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER delivered the keynote address. Shri Alok Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA gave special remarks.

## **National Consultations on SDG 5 – Gender Equality & SDG 2 – Zero Hunger**

RIS, NITI Aayog and the UN office in India jointly organized National Consultations with States with focus on specific SDGs goals. As part of this series, two National Consultations were held at New Delhi on SDG 5 related to Gender Equality issues on 11 April 2017 and SDG 2 on Zero Hunger on 13 April 2017. Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Textiles, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, gave the inaugural address. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS gave special remarks. Dr. Ashok Kumar Jain, Adviser (Rural Development and SDGs), NITI Aayog and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS also addressed the consultation.

## **National Consultation on Reducing Inequalities**

RIS, in association with the NITI Aayog and UN office in

India, organized National Consultations over the last one year with many stakeholders, including State Governments, CSOs and others, with focus on specific SDGs.

As part of the series, a National Consultation on SDG-10 related to issues of Inequalities was held on 28 August 2017 at New Delhi. Dr. Ashok Kumar Jain, Adviser, NITI Aayog welcomed all and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, made initial remarks. Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator, India, addressed the inaugural session and Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, delivered the special address and Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, delivered the keynote address.

## **International Order and Rule of Laws of SDGs**

RIS and the Indian Law Institute (ILI) organized a Special Lecture on International Order and Rule of Law in Times of SDGs on 27 September 2017 at New Delhi. The programme began with the introductory remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr. Shreenibas Prusty, Registrar, ILI. Mr. Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney-General of India, chaired the session. Ms. Irene Khan, Director General, International Development Law Organization (IDLO), delivered special lecture on 'International Order and Rule of Law in Times of SDGs'. A Q&A Session followed the perceptive lecture. Professor T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS, extended the vote of thanks.

## **Implementing Agenda 2030: The Role of Global Partnership**

A panel discussion on 'Implementing Agenda 2030: The Role of Global Partnership' was jointly organised on 18 July 2017 by RIS and the United Nations Foundation, New York.

Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS chaired. Ms Minh-Thu Pham, Executive Director for Policy, UN Foundation and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS welcomed the participants and gave brief introductory remarks. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh; Shri Jitendra Shankar Mathur, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Mr. Manuel F. Montes, Senior Advisor on Finance and Development, South Centre in Geneva; Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator for India and Ms Romilly Greenhill, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute, were panelists. Ms Minhu-Thu Pham and Professor Sachin

Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS did the wrap up of the session.

## **Roundtable on Deepening India-Russia Partnership: Exploring New Vistas**

A Roundtable on ‘Deepening India-Russia Partnership: Exploring New Vistas’ was organized by RIS on 6 April 2017 in New Delhi. It started with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS and initial remarks by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS. Ambassador P. S. Raghavan, former Ambassador of India to Russia chaired the inaugural session. Mr. Anatoly V. Kargapolov, Charge d’ Affairs, Embassy of Russia in Delhi, and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India delivered Special addresses. Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Professor at RIS gave concluding remarks.

## **Policy Dialogue on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation “Stronger Connectivity and Enhancing Ties”**

The MEA, in partnership with the ASEAN India Centre at RIS and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organized a Policy Dialogue on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) titled “Stronger Connectivity and Enhancing Ties” on 8 April 2017 in New Delhi. Welcome address was given by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS gave the opening address. Dr. Dinesh Dua, representing the CII, delivered a special address. Professor Lokesh Chandra, President, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), extended a special address. Smt Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA delivered the keynote address and released the AIC-RIS Report on “Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Breaking Barriers and Seeking New Heights”. Smt Pooja Kapoor, Joint Secretary extended the vote of thanks.

## **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relations**

ASEAN–India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi; ASEAN Studies Center and Indian Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, in collaboration with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata

and Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata organised a joint international workshop on “India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relationship: Way Towards a Stronger ASEAN-India Partnership” on 6 & 7 September 2017 at MAKAISAS, Kolkata. Dr. Binoda Mishra, Director, Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata welcomed the participants. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS, New Delhi delivered opening remarks. Professor Suthiphand Chirathivat, Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok gave the inaugural address. Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai, and Former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar delivered a Special Address.

## **Visit of ASEAN Journalists**

A group of 20 journalists of ASEAN countries visited the AIC at RIS on 4 July 2017. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi gave the opening remarks. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman, RIS presented an overview of the ASEAN-India strategic partnership and the changing dynamics of Indian foreign policy. Activities of the AIC were also shared with the visiting journalists. Ambassador Puri also answered the questions raised by the visiting journalists. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, gave Vote of Thanks.

## **The Fourth INDIALICS Conference and Training Workshop 2017**

The Centre for Studies in Science Policy, JNU; RIS; CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research); NISTADS (National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies) jointly organised the 4th INDIALICS Conference and Training Workshop 2017 titled ‘Innovation for Sustainable Development: Perspectives, Policies and Practices in South Asia’ from 2-4 November 2017 in New Delhi.

The programme began with welcome remarks by Dr. Sardindu Bhaduri, Chairperson CSSP, JNU and Convener INDIALICS. Dr. Sujit Bhattacharya, CSIR NISTADS, chaired. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr. P. Goswami, Director, CSIR-NISTADS addressed the participants. Professor Mammo Muchie, Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa was the lead speaker in the inaugural session. Dr. Anup Kumar Das extended the vote of thanks. The detailed programme is available on the website of RIS.

## Expert Consultation on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

RIS has been actively engaged on issues and discourses related to STI policies, both at national and global levels. As part of this endeavour, RIS has been involved in various deliberations on an emerging science policy framework at the global platforms, particularly in Europe, in the form of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). RRI aims to engage publics and responsible actors in the science and innovation field to produce ethically acceptable, sustainable and socially desirable research and innovation outcomes. The European Commission has identified five keys of RRI, viz. ethics, public engagement, gender equality, open access/science and science education.

In order to discuss the definition and relevance of RRI in the Indian context, RIS, in partnership with Department of Science and Technology (DST) organised a National Roundtable on RRI on 28 April 2017. At the inaugural session, Dr. K Ravi Srinivas, RIS welcomed the gathering; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, made presentation on the RRI; Dr. Parveen Arora, Secretary General and Head-CHORD Division, DST gave key remarks; Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST, delivered inaugural address, and Dr. Amit Kumar, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

## Interactive Session on Indian Economy: Growth Prospects

RIS organised an Interactive Session on Indian Economy: Growth Prospects on 6 October 2017. The programme began with Welcome Remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Dr. S. K. Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor, SBI Groups made the lead presentation. It was followed by special remarks by Professor Amitabh Kundu, Visiting Fellow, RIS and Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant, RIS. A large number of participants took part in the open discussion.

AIC participates as key partner in Delhi Dialogue 9 on 'ASEAN-India Relations: Charting the Course for the next 25 Years'

AIC at RIS participated as a key partner in this two-day event organized by MEA in collaboration with Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in New Delhi. It was attended by a large number of political leaders, policy makers, high-ranking

government officials, business leaders, think tanks, and academics from India and ASEAN member states. EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the event. The prominent dignitaries were: Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.); Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam; Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam; U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Myanmar and Hirubalan V P, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat.

## India's Quest for Connectivity

A consultation meeting on India's Quest for Connectivity was organized on 6 July 2017 at RIS, New Delhi. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, welcomed the participants. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS, chaired the Consultation meeting. Dr. Arvind Gupta, Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA), delivered the special address. Shri Rajat Nag, Distinguished Fellow, NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research), presented his special remarks, followed by a panel discussion.

## India-Russia Bilateral Relations

The RIS organized a discussion meeting on 28 July 2017 on 'India-Russia Bilateral Relations in the Global Context' as a part of celebrating seventy years of India-Russia bilateral relations. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador S. T. Devare, Chairman, RIS Research Advisory Council chaired the session. Professor Vladimir Yakunin, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute, Head of the Department of State Politics of the Faculty of Political Science, Moscow State University, delivered special address; followed by panel discussion by Professor Anuradha Chenoy, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi and Mrs. Ekaterina Semenova, First Secretary, Embassy of the Russian Federation.

## Visit of ASEAN Permanent Representative

ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives visited the AIC at RIS on 7 July 2017. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman, RIS gave a presentation on the significance of

ASEAN-India strategic partnership given the dynamic changes in geo-political scenario. ASEAN diplomats had a fruitful interaction with Ambassador Puri. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended the vote of thanks.

‘Leveraging Trade in High Technology for Emergence: The BRICS Experience’

A Breakfast Seminar on ‘Leveraging Trade in High Technology for Emergence: The BRICS Experience’ by Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS was held on 4 July 2017 at the RIS. Professor Vijay Kumar Kaul, Dean, Faculty of Applied Social Science and Humanities, University of Delhi, chaired the Seminar.

## Financial Cooperation among BRICS Countries

Another Breakfast Seminar was organized on ‘Financial Cooperation among BRICS Countries: Existing Mechanisms and Future Discourse’ by RIS on 7 April 2017. Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Research Associate, RIS, gave a presentation on the topic. Shri Alok Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA chaired the seminar.

## Tribute to Professor Saman Kelegama

In order to pay tribute to Professor Saman Kelegama and to recall his immense contribution towards strengthening the economic cooperation in the South Asian region, RIS organised a special meeting on 11 July 2017 at New Delhi. Mrs. Chitrangenee Wagiswara, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka also joined on the occasion at which Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, UN-ESCAP; and Professor Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics, JNU and Co-Chair, SACEPS (South Asia Centre for Policy Studies); Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; paid heartfelt tribute to Professor Saman Kelegama and recalled his immense contributions towards promoting economic integration in the South Asia.

## Blue Economy Framework for Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity

The RIS, jointly with the Ministry of Earth Sciences,

organized a public lecture on “Blue Economy Framework for Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity” by Professor Charles Colgan, National Ocean Economics Programme (NOEP), USA on 25 April 2017 at New Delhi. Professor Charles Colgan is an eminent scholar and economic scholar in ocean economies, transportation and economic development, urban planning and policy analysis. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS, chaired the session. Dr. S. K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS gave brief introduction to Blue Economy Programme of RIS. Ambassador K.V. Bhagirath, Secretary General, IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association), made special remarks. The lecture was followed by an open discussion.

Workshops on Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector as a Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia

The RIS has initiated a major research project on “Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector as a Strategy for Sustainable Growth in South Asia” with the support from the Asia Foundation as part of the SACEPS Research Programme in 2016-17.

As the follow-up, RIS jointly with SACEPS and Asia Foundation organized the second one-day Workshop on “Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia” on 21 June 2017 at New Delhi.

## Stakeholder Consultation on Traditional Knowledge Digital Library

A Stakeholder Consultation on Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) was organized by the Forum on the Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) at RIS and the Ministry of AYUSH at New Delhi on 30 June 2017.

The Consultation was opened with a welcome address by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Dr. Manoj Nesari, Advisor (Ayush) Ministry of AYUSH on behalf of Dr. Rajesh Kotecha, Special Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, delivered the inaugural address. Professor T. C. James, Member Secretary, FITM presented the issues to be addressed by the stakeholders during the consultation. Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Head, TKDL Unit, CSIR, apprised the participants regarding current status of TKDL.

## RIS Publications

### Reports:

- Asia Africa Growth Corridor: Partnership for Sustainable and Innovative Development: A Vision Document RIS, ERIA, IDE-JETRO, New Delhi, 2017.
- Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Breaking Barriers and Seeking New Heights AIC – RIS, New Delhi, 2017.
- ITEC Capacity Building Programme, Report on Learning South South Cooperation, RIS, New Delhi 2017.
- ITEC Capacity Building Programme, Report on Science Diplomacy, RIS, New Delhi 2017.
- Delhi Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, 24-25 August 2017 – Key Takeaways.

### Discussion Papers

- No. 209 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement: Need for a Strategy by V. S. Seshadri.
- No. 210 Developing a Logistics Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism: The Next Step in Trade Facilitation Reforms, by Rajeev Kher and Pritam Banerjee.
- No. 211 The Role of Financial Access and Financial Development in Firms' Exportability: Empirical Evidence from Asia-Pacific.
- No. 212 Monetary Policy: Its changing objectives, Instruments and Results, Manmohan Agarwal and Irfan Shah.
- No. 213 India-Japan Cooperation for Promoting People-to-People Partnership in Asia Africa Growth Corridor by Ruchita Beri
- No. 214 Skill Development in Africa: Scope for India-Japan Cooperation in Asia Africa Growth Corridor by Manmohan Agarwal.
- No. 215 Health Sector Cooperation in Asia Africa Growth Corridor by Harpreet Sandhu.
- No. 216 Women in the Economy: An Untapped Resource for Growth in the Asia-Africa Region by Renana Jhabvala.
- No. 217 Trade facilitation in Asia Africa Growth

Corridor: Potential for India-Japan Cooperation in Africa by S.K. Mohanty, Priyadarshi Dash, Vaibhav Kaushik and Bhaskar Kashyap.

- No. 218 Asia Africa Cooperation in Human Resource Development by Santosh Mehrotra.
- No. 219 People-to-People Partnership in Asia Africa Growth Corridor: Historical and Cultural Linkages across Asia and Africa by V. Selvakumar.

### RIS Policy Brief

- No. 78 Manufacturing in India and other BRICS Countries: A Stuttering Performance by Manmohan Agarwal, June 2017.

### Journals

- Asian Biotechnology and Development Review Vol. 19 No. 1, March 2017.
- Asian Biotechnology and Development Review Vol. 19 No. 2, July 2017.
- South Asia Economic Journal Vol. 18 No. 1, April 2017.

### Blue Economy Forum

- Blue Economy Enhancing Growth and Sustainability, RIS, New Delhi

### Blue Economy Policy Brief #2

- Blue Economy, Ocean Development and SDG-14: Implications for the Marine Ecosystem by S. K. Mohanty and Pankhuri Gaur, RIS, April 2017, New Delhi

### FITM Policy Brief #1

- Access and expansion of Traditional Knowledge Digital library and incentivization of innovations by Prof. T.C. James, Dr. Namrata Pathak and Ms. Deepika Yadav

### RIS Diary

- Vol. 13 No. 2, April 2017
- Vol. 13, No.3, July 2017
- Vol. 13, No. 4, October 2017





*External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj with other dignitaries on the occasion of the programme on 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership.*



*External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj delivering Keynote Address on ASEAN-India Partnership at New Delhi on 22 June 2017. (From left to right): Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairperson, RIS; Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador of Vietnam to India; Shri Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA; and Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS.*



Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary addressing the participants at the Consultation on Asia Africa Growth Corridor: The Way Forward held at New Delhi on 25 August 2017.



Smt Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), delivering the inaugural address at the Delhi Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation held at New Delhi on 24 August 2017.

## Library and Archives

The library has over one hundred thousand books, rich resource materials and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support policy planning and research. The library subscribes and maintains about 300 periodicals / journals and newspaper titles (including on-line journals and databases).

A Library Committee manages activities including purchase of books and subscription of journals/periodicals and databases. The Foreign Secretary constitutes/re-constitutes the Library Committee. The current Committee comprises of Joint Secretary (Policy Planning & Research) as Chairman, Director/Deputy Secretary from 3-4 territorial divisions as Members and Director (Library & Information) as Member Secretary. Library officers first screen books submitted on approval by vendors before being put up to the Committee. Four to five committee meetings are held every year for selection of books for the library at regular intervals. Requested/recommended books are purchased on priority at a day-to-day basis. Books are also procured and supplied to officers through Inter-library loan. The library has also purchased a collection of e-books on international relations.

Library services are provided not only to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officers and staff members and all Indian Missions abroad, but also to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), President's and Vice President's Offices, Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA), Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), National Development Council (NDC) as well as several other Ministries and Departments. The library also entertains research scholars from various universities and institutions for study and research through its rich and specialized collections on International Relations and allied subject areas.

All Documentation/Bibliographic Services as well as other library operations and user services have been computerised, using integrated library management software "Web Centric LibSys 7". 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). 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 fed on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs. These online databases and journals/periodicals can be accessed on Internet via username and passwords. A list of such titles is regularly circulated at the Headquarters as well as Indian Missions and Posts abroad and is also available on Ministry's intranet.

To provide documentation, bibliography and reference services to its users, the library regularly issues various bulletins such as Recent Additions and Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin. In addition to this, the library provides access to several online databases/services. It also maintains group subscriptions to Financial Times (ft.com), Wall Street Journal (wsj.com) and the International New York Times (inyt.com) for the use of MEA officers.

MEA library has a good collection of rare books. A catalogue of some selected rare books has already been prepared and printed as per instructions of former Foreign Secretary. These rare books are also kept in a separate rare books library at JNB.

The library recently completed a project to publish/re-print "India's Bilateral Treaties and Agreements including joint declarations and communiqués" from 1947 to 2016-17 and this publication is likely to be released in eighteen volumes.

MEA Library also provides practical training/internship to the students of Library Science studying in various institutions of Delhi/professionals from time to time.

The library is an institutional member of Indian Library Association (ILA), Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centre (IASLIC), Central Government Library Association (CGLA), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Special Libraries Association (SLA). Director (Lib & Info) and other officers

regularly attended/participated in annual International and National Conferences/Seminars / Meetings of ILA, IASLIC, CGLA, IFLA, and SLA, from time to time. Dr. S. S. Dhaka, Director (Lib & Info) is elected Standing Committee Member of IFLA-Government Libraries Section for the term 2017-2019. Shri Sanjay Kumar Bihani, Assistant Library and Information Officer (ALIO) is elected as Chair of IFLA-RSCAO (Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania Section) for the term 2017-2019 and Standing Committee Member of IFLA-Government Information and Official Publications Section for the term 2015-2019. On an invitation from IFLA, Mr Bihani has also participated in IFLA Presidential Meeting and Global Vision Workshop held at Athens, Greece during April 2017.

## Archives

During this period, lists of 269 classified files have been sent

for approval of declassification/review to concerned Head of Divisions. The appraiser from National Archives of India appraised 3031 files. Special efforts were made to keep files in the compactors in an optimum manner. Record sorters cleaned six compactors with 282 racks and the total space in the compactors is for 26530.

As and when retired Ambassadors and research scholars approached the Division for accessing old files, access was given after due approval of the concerned Head of Divisions.

'Swachhta Hi Sewa' was observed from 15 September to 2 October 2017 and Swachhta Weeks during Deepavali from 10-16 October and again from 24-30 October 2017 in Archives & Record Management (A&RM) Division in cleaning the courtyards. The record sorters dusted all files in compactors in six big halls. Dry leaves from the two courtyards were removed.



## Finance and Budget

The total budget outlay for the Ministry of External Affairs for FY 2017-18 is ₹14,798.55 crores. This is 0.93 % more than the budget allocated for Financial Year (FY) 2016-17 of ₹14,662.66 crores.

A major part of this Budget is committed towards technical and economic cooperation with foreign countries through assistance as grants and loans. The principal beneficiaries of India's technical and economic cooperation programmes in FY 2017-18 are Bhutan (₹3,714.13 crores), Bangladesh (₹125 crores), Afghanistan (₹350 crores), Sri Lanka (₹125 crores), Nepal (₹375 crores), Myanmar (₹225 crores), African countries (₹330 crores), Mauritius (₹350 crores), Seychelles (₹300 crores) and Chahbahar Port, Iran (₹150 crores). Some other beneficiaries include Maldives, Mongolia, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Eurasia, Pacific, and other regions.

The Ministry had revenue receipts from issuance of passports, visa fees and other receipts to the tune of ₹2,703.20 crores up to 31 October 2017, as follows:

Minor Head	Revenue Receipt (in Crores)
Passports	1,361.46
Visa Fees	957.84
Others	383.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,703.20</b>

A sectoral analysis of the budget allocation as per the Budget Estimates of FY 2017-18 shows that out of a total allocation of ₹14,798.55 crores, 34% or ₹5,093.77 crores is allocated for grant projects under technical and economic cooperation programmes and 12% or ₹1800.26 crores as loans and advances to foreign governments. Indian Missions and Posts abroad have been allocated 17% or ₹2528.56 crores of the budget. The rest of the allocation is on Special Diplomatic Expenditure (15%), Passport & Emigration (6%), International Organisations (5%), Grant to Institutions (2%), Capital Outlay (2%), MEA Secretariat (3%) and others (4%).

### Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) Module

PAO Module of the PFMS has been implemented in the Ministry with effect from 1 April 2017. Necessary trainings have been imparted to all the Programme Divisions, DDOs and all the officers and staff. Now all the payments by the Ministry are done electronically using PAO module of PFMS. The Module is functioning smoothly.

Integrated Mission Accounting System (IMAS) and PFMS Integration: The Ministry took the exercise of integrating IMAS with PFMS. The Missions/Posts abroad submit their monthly account electronically to the Ministry, which is further incorporated in PFMS. The financial reports are available at PFMS to all the stakeholders online.

Bharatkosh/Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP): Various Non-Tax receipt purposes such as Apostille Fee, Hostel Payments, Guest House Fee, Sale Proceeds of Dead Stock and other articles, emigration fee and Toshakhana receipts are made live on NTRP. However, collection under Apostille Fee and Hostel/Guest House Payments are executed by the stakeholder.

### Status of Revision of Pre-2016 Pension Cases

Total Number of cases received from CPAO	-	4400
• MEA	-	4373
• Erstwhile MOIA	-	27
Cases received from Ministry	-	3150
Digital Authorization issued by PAO	-	2373
Cases Pending/ underprocess in PAO	-	777
Pre-2016 Revision Cases Pending in DDO	-	1250

Revision of Pre 2016 pension cases will be completed by the end of Financial Year 2017-18.

MEA Actual Expenditure Financial Year (FY) 2009-10 to FY 2016-2017 is at Appendix XII, Major Sectoral Allocation in FY 2017-18 is in Appendix XIII, Principal Destinations of ITEC Programmes is at XIV and Status of Pending C & AG Audit Paragraphs is at Appendix XV.

## APPENDIX – I

### Conference Division

The Conference Division (CD) was created in August 2016 with the primary mandate for organising and handling International Summits, Multilateral events including ministerial conferences & seminars etc organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). During sixteen months of its creation, the CD has successfully coordinated nineteen such events as detailed below, both in India (Delhi and other states) and abroad (Fiji).

The CD also acts as the Secretariat for Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and manages the Operations Committee (PBKOC) looking after the functioning of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) which, apart from being the hub of Pravasi related activities, has grown rapidly in its profile, serving as a premier convention centre for the Ministry and other Government of India Ministries/Departments for hosting conferences, conventions, workshops, seminars, official meals etc.

Sl.	Event Name, Date	Venue	Date	Level of Event
1	Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) Natinal Security Agency (NSAs) meeting	Delhi	15-09-2016- 16-09-2016	NSA
2	8th BRICS Summit and BRICS-Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Outreach Summit	Goa	15-10-2016- 16-10-2016	Heads of State/Government (HoS/G)
3	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction	Delhi	3-11-2016 - 5-11-2016	Inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
4	6th Ministerial Conference on the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Afghanistan	Amritsar	2-12-2016 - 4-12-2016	Inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
5	14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention	Bengaluru	7-1-2017-9-1-2017	Inaugurated by President Shri Ramnath Kovind
6	Meeting of the Implementation & Assessment Group (Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism)	Delhi	8-2-2017- 10-2-2017	
7	BIMSTEC Security Chiefs Meeting	Delhi	21-3-2017	Security Chiefs
8	19th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting and 8th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting	Delhi	5-4-2017- 8-4-2017	Senior Officials
9	Sustainable Development Conference for India-Pacific Islands	Suva, Fiji	25-5-2017- 26-5-2017	HoS/G
10	Delhi Dialogue-IX	Delhi	4-7-2017- 5-7-2017	

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Sl.	Event Name, Date	Venue	Date	Level of Event
11	3rd International Day of Yoga	Delhi	21-6-2017	Inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj
12	High-tea hosted by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj in honour of Judge Dr. Dalveer Bhandari	Delhi	20-7-2017	Heads of Missions (HOMs) in Delhi
13	India-ASEAN Youth Summit	Bhopal	13-8-2017- 19-8-2017	
14	2nd National Protocol Conference	Delhi	21-8-2017	Inaugurated by Minister of State (MoS) Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.)
15	Inauguration of Videsh Bhawan Mumbai	Mumbai	27-8-2017	Inaugurated by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj
16	Visit of Prime Minister of Japan to Gujarat	Ahmedabad	13-9-2017- 15-9-2017	HoS/G
17	2nd Panel discussion on cyber security	Delhi	27-10-2017	Senior Officials
18	Familiarization visit of British Parliamentarians to India	Delhi	6-11-2017- 12-11-2017	British Parliamentarians
19	Thanks giving High-tea hosted by EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj in honour of Judge Dr. Dalveer Bhandari	Delhi	25-11-2017	HOMs in Delhi

## Upcoming Events during December 2016-March 2018

Sl.	Event Name, Date	Venue	Date	Level of Event
1	3rd Panel Discussion of PBD - engagement with younger members of Indian Diaspora	Delhi	16-12-2017	Indian & Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentarians
2	PIO Parliamentarians Conference	Delhi	9-1-2-18-	Heads of State/Government (HoS/G)
3	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)	Delhi	22-1-2018-	Inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
4	ASEAN - India Commemorative Summit	Delhi	25-1-2018-	Inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
5	International Solar Alliance Summit	Delhi	March-April 2018	HoS/G

## APPENDIX – II

### List of Treaties/Agreements Concluded/Signed by India during 2017

#### List A: Multilateral

Si. No.	Name of the Treaty/ Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
1	Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (Brics) Action Agenda On Economic And Trade Cooperation	<b>BRICS</b>	4-09-2017		4-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
2	Brics Action Plan For Innovation Cooperation (2017-2020)	<b>BRICS</b>	4-09-2017		4-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
3	Strategic Framework Of Brics Customs Cooperation	<b>BRICS</b>	4-09-2017		4-09-2017	Ministry Of Finance
4	Mou Between The Secretariat Of The Federal Revenue Of Brazil, The Federal Tax Service Of Russian Federation, The Department Of Revenue Of India, The State Administration Of Taxation Of China And South African Revenue Service Of South Africa	<b>BRICS</b>	27-07-2017		27-07-2017	Ministry Of Finance
5	Convention On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	<b>Council Of Europe</b>		08-11-2017[A]		Ministry Of Home Affairs
6	Agreement Between India, Brazil And South Africa On The Ibsa Fund For The Allevation Of Poverty And Hunger	<b>IBSA</b>	17-10-2017	Not Ratified Yet.		Ministry Of External Affairs
7	Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)	<b>International Labour Organization (ILO)</b>		26-05-2017[A]		Ministry Of Labour
8	Worst Form Of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)	<b>ILO</b>		26-05-2017[A]		Ministry Of Labour
9	Framework Agreement On The Establishment Of The International Solar Alliance (Isa).	<b>ISA</b>	15-11-2016	28-06-17[R]	06-12-2017	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy Resources
10	Joint Declaration By The Interim Secretariat Of International Solar Alliance (Isa) And The European Investment Bank For Promotion Of Solar Energy Globally October 6Th , 2017	<b>ISA</b>	6-10-2017		6-10-2017	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy Resources



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Si. No.	Name of the Treaty/ Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
11	Agreement On Anti-Terrorist Structure(Rats) Between The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Sco)	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
12	Agreement On The Databank Of The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
13	Protocol On Cooperation And Coordination Of Activities Between The Ministries Of Foreign Affairs Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]		Ministry Of External Affairs
14	Agreement On The Procedure For Preparation And Conducting Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercises Among The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]		Ministry Of External Affairs
15	Agreement On The Procedure For The Preparation And Execution Of The Budget Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]		Ministry Of External Affairs
16	Agreement On Protecting Classified Information In The Framework Of The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
17	Protocol On Amendments To The Agreement On The Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure Among The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
18	Protocol On Amendments To The Agreement On The Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure Among The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Signed On 7Th June 2002	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
19	Convention On Privileges And Immunities Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization.	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of the Treaty/ Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
20	Agreement On Cooperation In Combating Illicit Traffic Of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, And Precursors Between The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
21	Agreement On Cooperation In Identifying And Blocking The Channels Of Entry Into The Territory Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Of The Persons Involved In Terrorist, Separatist And Extremist Activities	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
22	Agreement On The Procedure For Organizing And Conducting Joint Anti-Terrorist Operations In The Territory Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization.	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
23	Agreement On Cooperation In Ensuring International Information Security Between The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
24	Convention Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Against Terrorism	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
25	Agreement On The Training Of Personnel For Anti-Terrorist Units Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		01-12-2016[A]	25-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
26	Memorandum Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization On Fundamental Goals And Directions Of Regional Economic Cooperation And Launch Of The Process Of Creating Favourable Conditions For Trade And Investment	SCO		01-12-2016[A]		Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of the Treaty/ Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
27	Agreement On Cooperation And Interaction Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization On Border Issues	SCO		04-05-2017[A]		Ministry Of External Affairs
28	Protocol On Interaction Of The Customs Services Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization In The Field Of Law Enforcement	SCO		04-05-2017[A]		Ministry Of External Affairs
29	Agreement Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization On Creating Favorable Conditions For International Road Transportation	SCO		04-05-2017[A]		Ministry Of External Affairs
30	Agreement On The Inter-Bank Cooperation (Association) In The Framework Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	28-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
31	Agreement On Disaster Relief Mutual Assistance Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
32	Protocol To The Agreement On Disaster Relief Mutual Assistance Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
33	Agreement On Cooperation In Education Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
34	Agreement On Cooperation In Culture Between The Governments Of The Members States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
35	Treaty On Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship And Cooperation Between The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of the Treaty/ Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
36	Agreement On Cooperation In Combating Illicit Trafficking In Arms, Ammunition And Explosives Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	28-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
37	Protocol On Information Sharing In The Field Of Customs Control Over Transportation Of Energy Resources Between The Customs Services Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	28-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
38	Agreement On Cooperation In Combating Crime Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	28-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
39	Agreement On Cooperation In Agriculture Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
40	Agreement On Scientific And Technical Cooperation Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
41	Agreement On Cooperation Between The Ministries Of Justice Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		09-03-2017[A]	28-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
42	Agreement On Technical Protection Of Information In The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		9-03-2017[A]	27-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
43	Agreement On Cooperation And Mutual Assistance In Customs Affairs Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO		9-03-2017[A]	28-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of the Treaty/ Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry into force	Administrative Ministry
44	Mou Between The United Nations Entity Of Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women And The Ministry Of Panchayati Raj (Mopr), India	<b>United Nations</b>	19-04-2017		19-04-2017	Ministry Of Panchayati Raj
45	Doha Amendment To The Kyoto Protocol To The United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change	<b>United Nations</b>		13-07-2017[A]		Ministry Of Environment
46	Customs Convention On The International Transport Of Goods Under Cover Of Tir Carnets (Tir Convention, 1975)	<b>World Customs Organization</b>		22-05-2017[A]		Ministry Of Finance

[A] – Accession

[R] - Ratification

**List B: Bilateral**

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
1	Motor Vehicles Agreement For The Regulation Of Passenger, Personal And Cargo Vehicular Traffic Between India And Afghanistan	<b>Afghanistan</b>	11-09-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways
2	Bilateral Agreement Between India And Afghanistan Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of 'South Asia Satellite' Proposed At 97.3E	<b>Afghanistan</b>	11-09-2017		11-09-2017	Department Of Space
3	Mou Between The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, Directorate General Of Health Services (Cdsc/Dghs), India And National Medicine And Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority Of Afghanistan For Mutual Cooperation	<b>Afghanistan</b>	11-09-2017		11-09-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
4	Mou Between India And Afghanistan On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space	<b>Afghanistan</b>	14-09-2016		14-09-2016	Department Of Space
5	Mou Of Technical Cooperation On Police Training And Development Between India And Afghanistan	<b>Afghanistan</b>	28-09-2017		28-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
6	Agreement On The Establishment Of A Bilateral Commission Between The Government Of The Republic Of Angola And The Goi	<b>Angola</b>	30-01-2017		30-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
7	Mou Between The Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of India And The Ministry Of Sport And Youth Affairs Of Armenia On Cooperation In Youth Matters	<b>Armenia</b>	25-04-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports
8	Program Of Cultural Co-Operation Between The Ministry Of Culture Of India And Ministry Of Culture Of Armenia For The Years 2017-2020	<b>Armenia</b>	25-04-2017		25-04-2017	Ministry Of Culture
9	Mou Between India And Armenia On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space	<b>Armenia</b>	25-04-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Department Of Space
10	Agreement Between India And Armenia On Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture	<b>Armenia</b>	19-02-2016	09-08-17		Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
11	Memorandum On Mutual Understanding And Cooperation In The Field Of Elections Between The Election Commission Of India (Eci) And The Australian Electoral Commission (Aec)	<b>Australia</b>	24-01-2017		24-01-2017	Election Commission Of India
12	Mou Between India And Australia On Cooperation In The Field Of Environment, Climate And Wildlife	<b>Australia</b>	10-04-2017		10-04-2017	Ministry Of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
13	Mou Between India And Australia On Cooperation In Combating International Terrorism And Transnational Organized Crime	<b>Australia</b>	10-04-2017		10-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
14	Mou Between India And Australia On Cooperation In The Field Of Health And Medicine	<b>Australia</b>	10-04-2017		10-04-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
15	Implementing Arrangement Between India And Australia Relating To Satellite Laser Ranging And Tracking Of The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System	<b>Australia</b>	10-04-2017		10-04-2017	Department Of Space

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
16	Implementing Arrangement Between India And Australia Relating To Cooperation On Using Australian Corner Reflector Infrastructure For Calibration And Validation Of Indian Synthetic Aperture Radar Systems	<b>Australia</b>	10-04-2017		10-04-2017	Department Of Space
17	Mou Between India And Australia For Promotion And Development Of Cooperation In Civil Aviation Security	<b>Australia</b>	07-04-17		07-04-17	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
18	Protocol Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Austria Amending The Convention For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income, Which Was Signed At Vienna On 8 November 1999	<b>Austria</b>	06-02-17	01-03-17		Ministry Of Finance
19	Agreement Between India And Bahrain On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	<b>Bahrain</b>	23-01-2016	10-03-2017		Ministry Of Home Affairs
20	Mou Between Defence Service Staff College, Wellington (Nilgiri), Tamilnadu, India And Defence Services Command And Staff College, Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh For Enhancing Cooperation Concerning Military Education In The Field Of Strategic And Operational Studies	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Defence
21	Mou Between National Defence College, New Delhi, India And National Defence College, Dhaka, Bangladesh For Enhancing Cooperation In The Field Of National Security, Development And Strategic Studies	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Defence
22	Mou Between India And Bangladesh On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Department Of Space
23	Agreement Between India And Bangladesh On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Nuclear Energy	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Department Of Atomic Energy

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
24	Arrangement Between The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (Aerb) Of India And The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (Baera) Of Bangladesh For The Exchange Of Technical Information And Co-Operation In The Regulation Of Nuclear Safety And Radiation Protection	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Department Of Atomic Energy
25	Inter-Agency Agreement Global Centre For Nuclear Energy Partnership (Gcnep) Department Of Atomic Energy India And Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (Baec) Ministry Of Science & Technology Bangladesh On Cooperation Regarding Nuclear Power Plant Projects In Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Department Of Atomic Energy
26	Mou Between The Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology Of India And Information And Communication Technology Division Of Bangladesh On Cooperation In The Field Of Information Technology And Electronics	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology
27	Mou Between The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology India And The Bangladesh Government Computer Incident Response Team (Bg E-Gov Cirt) Bangladesh Computer Council Of Information And Communication Technology Division Ministry Of Posts, Telecommunications And It Bangladesh On Cooperation In The Area Of Cyber Security	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology
28	Mou Between India And Bangladesh Establishing Border Haats Across The Border Between India And Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Commerce & Industry



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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
29	Mou Between Ministry Of Law & Justice Of India And Ministry Of Law & Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Of Bangladesh On Bilateral Judicial Sector Cooperation	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Law & Justice
30	Mou Between The National Judicial Academy India And The Supreme Court Of Bangladesh On Training And Capacity Building Programme For Bangladeshi Judicial Offers In India	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Law & Justice
31	Mou Between The Directorate General Of Lighthouses And Lightships (Dgll), Ministry Of Shipping, India Nd The Department Of Shipping (Dos), Ministry Of Shipping, Bangladesh Concerning Cooperation On Aids To Navigation (Aton)	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Shipping
32	Mou Between Geological Survey Of India And Geological Survey Of Bangladesh On Mutual Scientific Cooperation In The Field Of Earth Sciences For Research And Development	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Mines
33	Mou On Passenger And Cruise Services On The Coastal And Protocol Routes Between The Ministry Of Shipping Of India And The Ministry Of Shipping Of Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Shipping
34	Mou On Development Of Fairway From Sirajganj To Daikhowa And Ashuganj To Zakiganj In Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route Between India And Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Shipping
35	Mou Between India And Bangladesh On Cooperation In The Field Of Mass Media	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Information & Broadcasting
36	Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement Between India And Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Information & Broadcasting

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
37	Mou Between India And Bangladesh For Extending A New Defence Line Of Credit Of Us\$ 500 Million	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Finance
38	Agreement Between India And Bangladesh For The Regulation Of Motor Vehicle Passenger Traffic Between The Two Countries	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08/04/2017	Ministry Of Road & Transport
39	Financing Agreement Between India And Bangladesh For The Construction Of 36 Community Clinics In Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
40	Sop For Providing Security And Logistics Support To Bgb For Construction Of Bops In Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
41	Standard Operating Procedures For The Establishment Of Collaborative Relationship To Combat Transnational Activities At Sea And Develop Regional Cooperation Between Indian Coast Guard And Bangladesh Coast Guard	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of Defence
42	Joint Interpretative Notes On The Agreement Between India And Bangladesh For The Promotion And Protection Of Investments	<b>Bangladesh</b>	04-10-2017		04-10-2017	Ministry Of Finance
43	Mou Between Indian Council For Cultural Relations And University Of Dhaka For The Establishment Of The Iccr Chair For Hindi Language	<b>Bangladesh</b>	10-01-2017		10-01-2017	Ministry Of Culture
44	Agreement Between India And Bangladesh Concerning To Orbit Frequency Of 'South Asia Satellite' Proposed At 48E	<b>Bangladesh</b>	23-03-2017		23-03-2017	Department Of Space
45	Mou On Defence Cooperation Framework Between India And Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Defence
46	Mou Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The People's Republic Of Bangladesh For Extending A 3Rd Line Of Credit (Loc) By Goi To Gob.	<b>Bangladesh</b>	08-04-2017		08-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
47	Sale And Purchase Agreement Between Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (Nrl) And Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (Bpc) For Supply Of Gasoil	<b>Bangladesh</b>	22-10-2017		22-10-2017	Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas
48	Memorandum Of Understanding Between India And Bangladesh For Setting Up Of Common Facility Centre For Small & Medium Enterprises At Ideb, Khulna, Bangladesh	<b>Bangladesh</b>	22-10-2017		22-10-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
49	Mou Between Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas Of India And Belarusian State Concern Of Oil And Chemistry In The Oil And Gas Sector	<b>Belarus</b>	12-09-2017		12-09-2017	Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas
50	Protocol Of 8Th Session Of Belarusian-Indian Inter-Governmental Commission On Trade, Economic & Scientific, Technological And Cultural Cooperation	<b>Belarus</b>	4-07- 2017		4-07- 2017	Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion
51	Mou Between The Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship Of India And Ministry Of Education Of Belarus For Cooperation In The Field Of Vocational Education And Training (Vet)	<b>Belarus</b>	12-09-2017		12-09-2017	Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship
52	Mou Between Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of India And The Ministry Of Education Of The Republic Of Belarus	<b>Belarus</b>	12-09-2017		12-09-2017	Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports
53	Mou Between The Indian Council Of Agricultural Research, New Delhi India And Belarusian State Agricultural Academy, Gorki, Belarus For Cooperation In Agricultural Research And Education	<b>Belarus</b>	11-09-2017		11-09-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
54	Programme Of Cooperation Between India And Belarus In The Field Of Culture For 2018-2020	<b>Belarus</b>	12-09-2017		12-09-2017	Ministry Of Culture

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
55	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between The Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare Of India And The Ministry Of Agriculture And Food Belarus Signed On 16 April, 2007	<b>Belarus</b>	12-09-2017		12-09-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
56	Agreement On Scientific And Technical Cooperation Between The National Science Academy And The National Academy Of Science Of Belarus	<b>Belarus</b>	11-09-2017		11-09-2017	Ministry Of Science & Technology
57	Protocol Amending The Agreement And The Protocol Between India And Belgium For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Belgium</b>	09-03-2017	11-04-2017		Ministry Of Finance
58	Agreement Between India And Belize On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official/Service Passports	<b>Belize</b>	18-09-2017	29-09-17		Ministry Of External Affairs
59	Amendment To The Bilateral Agreement Between India And Bhutan Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of “Satellite For Saarc Region” Proposed At 48 E	<b>Bhutan</b>	18-08-2017		08-09-2017	Department Of Space
60	Mou Of Mutual Understanding And Cooperation In The Filed Of Elections Between India And Bosnia And Herzegovina	<b>Bosnia</b>	24-01-2017		24-01-2017	Election Commission Of India
61	A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Department Of Science And Technology (Dst), India And The Natural Sciences And Engineering Research Council (Nserc) Of Canada, Government Of Canada For Cooperation In The Field Of Science & Technology	<b>Canada</b>	14-11-2017		14-11-2017	Ministry Of Science And Technolgy

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
62	Decision No. 1/2016 Of The Joint Administration Committee Set Up By The Preferential Trade Agreement Between The Republic Of Chile And The Republic Of India, Signed On March 8, 2006 Concerning The Adoption Of Amendments To This Agreement	<b>Chile</b>	06-09-2016	03-02-2017		Ministry Of Commerce & Industry
63	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of Republic Of India And The Government Of Cook Islands For Establishing India - Cook Islands Centre Of Excellence In Information Technology	<b>Cook Islands</b>	24-05-2017		24-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
64	Agreement Between India And Croatia On Economic Cooperation	<b>Croatia</b>	14-02-2017	15-03-2017		Ministry Of Commerce & Industry
65	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Cyprus Relating To Air Services	<b>Cyprus</b>	28-04-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Civil Aviation
66	Executive Programme On Cultural, Educational And Scientific Cooperation Between India And Cyprus For The Years 2017-2020	<b>Cyprus</b>	28-04-2017		28-04-2017	Ministry Of Culture
67	Work Plan Under Programme Of Cooperation Between India And Cyprus On Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture For 2017-2018	<b>Cyprus</b>	27-04-2017		31-05-17	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
68	Agreement Between India And Cyprus On Merchant Shipping	<b>Cyprus</b>	28-04-2017	29-09-2017		Ministry Of Shipping
69	Mou Between Fsi India And The Institute Of Higher Education In Diplomatic And Consular Training Of The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Of Dominican Republic	<b>Dominican Republic</b>	3-10-2017		3-10-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
70	Protocol For Consultations Between Mea, Goi And Ministry Of External Relations And Cooperation Of The Republic Of Equatorial Guinea	<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	18-08- 2017		18-08- 2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
71	Agreement Between The Goi And The Government Of The Republic Of Equatorial Guinea On The Establishment Of A Joint Commission	<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	18-08- 2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of External Affairs
72	Agreement Between The Goi And The Government Of The Republic Of Equatorial Guinea On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official/Service Passports	<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	18-08- 2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of External Affairs
73	Memorandum On Mutual Understanding And Cooperation In The Field Of Elections Between The Election Commission Of India (Eci) And The Fijian Elections Office	<b>Fiji</b>	24-01-2017		24-01-2017	Election Commission Of India
74	Air Services Agreement Between India And Fiji	<b>Fiji</b>	08-03-17	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Civil Aviation
75	Memorandum Of Understanding Between India Fiji For Establishing India-Fiji Centre Of Excellence In Information Technology	<b>Fiji</b>	25-05-2017		25-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
76	Agreement Between India And Finland On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Finland</b>	6-11-2017	28-11-2017	05-12-17	Ministry Of External Affairs
77	Protocol For Consultations Between The Mea, Goi And The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Of The Republic Of Gabon	<b>Gabon</b>	19-06-2017		19-06-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
78	Agreement Between India And Georgia On Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official/ Service Passports	<b>Georgia</b>	31-07-2017	01-09-17	20-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
79	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology India And The Federal Ministry Of Economic Affairs And Energy Of The Federal Republic Of Germany On Cooperation In The Field Of Digitalisation - Empowerment And Economic Impact.	<b>Germany</b>	30-5-2017		30-5-2017	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
80	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Urban Development Of The Republic Of India And The Federal Ministry For Economic Cooperation And Development Of The Federal Republic Of Germany On Indo – German Development Cooperation For Sustainable Urban Development.	<b>Germany</b>	30-05-2017		30-05-2017	Ministry Of Urban Development
81	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between India And Germany On The Advancement Of Dual Vet And Collaboration On Training Of Indian Skill Development Officers And Cluster Managers	<b>Germany</b>	30-05-2017		30-5-2017	Ministry Of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
82	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between Germany And The Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship Of India On The Advancement Of Dual Vet Collaboration On Training Of Vet Cluster Managers And Indian Skill Development Officers	<b>Germany</b>	30-05-2017		30-5-2017	Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship
83	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Heavy Industries And Public Sector Enterprises, India And The Federal Ministry Of Education And Research Of Germany On Cooperation In The Field Of Vocational Education And Skill Development For The Machine Tool Sector.	<b>Germany</b>	30-05-2017		30-05-2017	Ministry Of Heavy Industries And Public Enterprises
84	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Foreign Service Institute, Ministry Of External Affairs, India And The Foreign Service Academy, Federal Foreign Office Of The Federal Republic Of Germany.	<b>Germany</b>	31-05-2017		31-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
85	Joint Declaration Of Intent On The Continued Support Of The Indo - German Centre For Sustainability Between The Ministry Of Science & Technology Of T India, And The Federal Ministry Of Education And Research Of Germany.	<b>Germany</b>	30-5-2017		30-05-17	Ministry Of Science & Technology

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
86	Joint Declaration Between Germany And Republic Of India On The Continuation Of The Cooperation In The Field Of Advanced Training Of Corporate Executives And Junior Executives From India.	<b>Germany</b>	30-5-2017		30-05-17	Ministry Of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
87	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between India And The Government Of Germany On Cooperation In The Field Of Cyber Policy.	<b>Germany</b>	30-5-2017		30-05-17	Ministry Of Home Affairs
88	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Ayush Of The Republic Of India Regarding Cooperation In The Sector Of Alternative Medicine And The Federal Ministry Of Health Of The Federal Republic Of Germany.	<b>Germany</b>	01-6-2017		01-6-2017	Ministry Of Ayush
89	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare Of The Republic Of India And The Federal Ministry Of Health Of The Federal Republic Of Germany Regarding Cooperation In The Health Sector.	<b>Germany</b>	01-6-2017		01-6-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
90	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Federal Ministry Of Transport And Digital Infrastructure Of The Federal Republic Of Germany And The Ministry Of Railways Of The Republic Of India On Cooperation In The Field Of Railway Safety.	<b>Germany</b>	30-5-2017		30-5-2017	Ministry Of Railways
91	Joint Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Finance Of The Republic Of India And The Federal Ministry For Economic Cooperation And Development Of The Federal Republic Of Germany On Indo-German Development Cooperation.	<b>Germany</b>	30-5-2017		30-5-2017	Ministry Of Finance
92	Mou Between India And Israel Regarding Cooperation In Electric Propulsion For Small Satellite	<b>Israel</b>	05-07-17		05-07-17	Department Of Space



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93	Mou Between India And Israel Regarding Cooperation In Geo-Leo Optical Link	<b>Israel</b>	05-07-17		05-07-17	Department Of Space
94	Plan Of Cooperation Between India And Israel Regarding Cooperation In Atomic Clocks	<b>Israel</b>	05-07-17		05-07-17	Department Of Space
95	Mou Between India And Israel On National Campaign For Water Conservation In India	<b>Israel</b>	05-07-17		05-07-17	Ministry Of Drinking Water & Sanitation
96	India Israel Development Cooperation Three Year Work Program In Agriculture 2018-2020 Between India And Israel	<b>Israel</b>	05-07-17		05-07-17	Ministry Of Agriculture
97	Mou Between India And Israel On India-Israel Industrial R&D And Technological Innovation Fund	<b>Israel</b>	05-07-17		05-07-17	Ministry Of Science & Technology
98	Visa Free Agreement Between India And Italy For Holders Of Diplomatic Passport	<b>Italy</b>	29-05-2017		25-10-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
99	Mou Between The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And International Cooperation Of The Italian Republic And The Indian Council For Cultural Relations (Iccr) Of The Republic Of India	<b>Italy</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of Culture
100	Mou On Cooperation In The Field Of Energy Between The Ministry For The Environment Of The Italian Republic And The Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy Of The Republic Of India	<b>Italy</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
101	Executive Programme On Cultural Cooperation Between India And Italian Republic For The Years 2017-2020	<b>Italy</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of Culture
102	Joint Declaration On The Progress Of The Cooperation Between The Ministry Of Railways Of The Republic Of India And Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane S.p.a.	<b>Italy</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of Railways

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103	Mou Between Invest India And The Italian Trade Agency	<b>Italy</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of Finance
104	Mou Between The Foreign Service Institute, Ministry Of External Affairs India And The Training Unit Of The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And International Cooperation Of The Italian Republic	<b>Italy</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
105	Mou Between India And Italy For Cooperatoin In Agriculture And Phytosanitary Issues	<b>Italy</b>	06-12-2017		06-12-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
106	Arrangement Between India Post And Japan Post On Administrative Instruction For The Implementation Of Cool Ems Service	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of Communication
107	Memorandum Of Understanding On International Academic & Sports Exchange Between Lakshmibai National Institute Of Physical Education (Lnipe), India And Nippon Sport Science University (Nssu), Japan	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of Youth And Sports
108	Letter Of Intent Between Sports Authority Of India, Myas, Goi And University Of Tsukuba, Japan	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of Youth And Sports
109	Memorandum Of Cooperation The Field Of Japanese Language Education In-India Between The Ministry Of External Affairs (Mea) Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) Of Japan	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
110	Memorandum Of Coopefation Between Thg Government Of India And The Government Of Japan For India-Japan Act East Forum	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
111	Memorandum Of Cooperation Between The Ministry Of Home Affairs Of The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Cabinet Office Of The Government Of Japan	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
112	Memorsndum Of Understanding Between Department Of Bidtechnology Under The Ministry Of Science And Technology, India And National Institute Of Advanced Industrial Science And Technology Japan	<b>Japan</b>	13-09-2017		13-09-2017	Ministry Of Science And Technology
113	Japan India Roadmap For Investmet Promotion Between Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion, Ministry Of Commerece And Industry And Ministry Of Economy Trade And Industry Of Japan	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of Commerece And Industry
114	Memorandum Of Understanding On International Academic & Sports Exchange Between Sports Authority Of India (Sai),India And Nippon Sport Science University (Nssu), Japan	<b>Japan</b>	14-09-2017		14-09-2017	Ministry Of Youth And Sports
115	Agreement Between India And Japan For Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Nuclear Energy	<b>Japan</b>	11-11-16	14-06-17	20-07-2017	Department Of Atomic Energy
116	Protocol Amending The Convention Between The Government Of India And Kazakhstan For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income And On Capital.	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	06-01-17	24-01-2017		Ministry Of Finance
117	Agreement Between India And Kenya On Visa Exemption	<b>Kenya</b>	11-07-16	03-02-2017		Ministry Of External Affairs
118	Mou Between India And Kenya On Bilateral Cooperation In The Agriculture Sector And Allied Sector	<b>Kenya</b>	11-01-2017		11-01-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
119	Agreement Between India And Korea Concerning Loans From The Economic Development Cooperation Fund	<b>Korea</b>	14-06-2017		14-06-2017	Ministry Of Finance

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
120	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between The Government Of India And Kuwait For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Kuwait</b>	15-01-2017	28-02-2017		Ministry Of Finance
121	Agreement Between India And Latvia On Exemption From Visa Requirements For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Latvia</b>	23-05-2017	01-09-17	08-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
122	Extradition Treaty Between India And Lithuania	<b>Lithuania</b>	04-10-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Home Affairs
123	Mou Between India And Malaysia On The Establishment Of An Academic Chair In Ayurveda	<b>Malaysia</b>	01-04-2017		01-04-2017	Ministry Of Ayush
124	Mou On The Proposed Urea And Ammonia Manufacturing Plant In Malaysia With Offtake To The Republic Of India And/Or Offtake Of Existing Surplus Urea From Malaysia To India	<b>Malaysia</b>	01-04-2017		01-04-2017	Ministry Of Chemicals And Fertilizers
125	Air Services Agreement Between India And Malaysia	<b>Malaysia</b>	01-04-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Civil Aviation
126	Mou Between India And Malaysia On The Implementation Of Fourth Generation Technology In The State Of Andhra Pradesh, India	<b>Malaysia</b>	01-04-2017		01-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
127	Mou Between India And Malaysia On Mutual Recognition Of Equivalence Of The Educational Certificates	<b>Malaysia</b>	01-04-2017		01-04-2017	Ministry Of Human Resources And Development
128	Amendment To The Bilateral Agreement Between India And Maldives Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of “South Asia Satellite ” Proposed At 48 E	<b>Maldives</b>	23-08-2017		23-08-2017	Department Of Space
129	Arrangement Between India And Mauritius On Gainful Employment For Family Members Of A Diplomatic Mission Or Consular Post.	<b>Mauritius</b>	04-01-2017		04-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
130	Memorandum Of Understanding Between Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare, India And The Ministry Of Business, Enterprises And Cooperatives Of The Republic Of Mauritius On Cooperation In Cooperatives And Related Fields	<b>Mauritius</b>	16-01-2017		16-01-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
131	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Mauritius For Setting Up Of Civil Service College In Mauritius	<b>Mauritius</b>	27-05-2017		27-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
132	Memorandum Of Understanding Between Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research, India And Mauritius Oceanography Institute, Mauritius For Research And Education In Marine Sciences And Technology	<b>Mauritius</b>	27-05-2017		27-05-2017	Ministry Of Science And Technology
133	Dollar Credit Line Agreement Between Sbm (Mauritius) Infrastructure Development Company Ltd. And Export-Import Bank Of India	<b>Mauritius</b>	27-05-2017		27-05-2017	Ministry Of Finance
134	Submission Of Instrument Of Ratification Of International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement	<b>Mauritius</b>	27-05-2017		27-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
135	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Mauritius On Maritime Security Within The Framework Of Project Agalega	<b>Mauritius</b>	27-05-2017		27-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
136	Agreement Between Lok Sabha Of The Republic Of India And The National Assembly Of Republic Of Mauritius For Cooperation On Parliamentary Matters	<b>Mauritius</b>	09-06-2017		09-06-2017	Lok Sabha Sec- retariat
137	Mou Between India And Morocco On Cooperation In The Field Of Water Resources	<b>Morocco</b>	14-12-2017		14-12-2017	Ministry Of Wa- ter Resources

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
138	Air Services Agreement Between India And Mozambique	<b>Mozambique</b>	16-01-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Civil Aviation
139	Memorandum Of Understanding On Maritime Security Cooperation Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
140	Cultural Exchange Programme Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar For The Year 2017-2020	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Ministry Of Culture
141	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar And The Government Of The Republic Of India On Enhancing The Cooperation Of The Upgradation Of The Women's Police Training Centre At Yamethin, Myanmar.	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
142	Memorandum Of Understanding For Sharing White Shipping Information Between The Indian Navy And Myanmar Navy	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Indian Navy
143	Technical Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar For Providing Coastal Surveillance System	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
144	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (Cdsco), Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare Of The Republic Of India And Food And Drugs (Fda), Ministry Of Health And Sports Of Myanmar On Cooperation In Medical Products Regulation.	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
145	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Health And Sports Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar On Cooperation In The Field Of Health And Medicine.	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
146	Memorandum Of Understanding In The Field Of Elections Between The Election Commission Of India And The Union Election Commission Of Myanmar.	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Election Commission Of India
147	Memorandum Of Understanding On Cooperation Between Myanmar Press Council And The Press Council Of India	<b>Myanmar</b>	06-09-2017		06-09-2017	Press Council Of India
148	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of Republic Of India And The Government Of Nauru For Establishing India - Nauru Centre Of Excellence In Information Technology	<b>Nauru</b>	24-05-2017		24-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
149	Memorandum Of Understanding In The Field Of Elections Between The Election Commission Of India And The Election Commission Of Nepal	<b>Nepal</b>	24-01-2017		24-01-2017	Election Commission Of India
150	Mou Between India And Nepal On Modalities For Utilization Of India's Housing Grant Of Us\$100 Million To Support Reconstruction Of 50,000 Houses	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
151	Mou Between India And Nepal For Implementation Of The Grant Component Of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package In The Education Sector In Nepal	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
152	Mou Between India And Nepal For Implementation Of The Grant Component Of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package In The Cultural Heritage Sector In Nepal	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
153	Mou Between India And Nepal For Implementation Of The Grant Component Of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package In The Health Sector In Nepal	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
154	Mou Between India And Nepal For Health Sector In Nepal	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Finance
155	Mou Between India And Nepal On Drug Demand Reduction And Prevention Of Illicit Trafficking In Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances And Precursor Chemicals And Related Matters	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
156	Mou Between India And Nepal For Implementation Arrangement On Cost Sharing, Schedules And Safeguard Issues For Construction Of Mechi Bridge Under Adb's Sasec Road Connectivity Programme (Tranche2) Funded By Govt Of India	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways
157	Agreement Between India And Nepal On Cooperation In The Filed Of Standardization And Conformity Assessment	<b>Nepal</b>	24-08-2017		24-08-2017	Ministry Of Consumer Affairs
158	Amendment To The Bilateral Agreement Between India And Nepal Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of "Satellite For Saarc Region" Proposed At 48 E	<b>Nepal</b>	12-09-2017		12-09-2017	Department Of Space
159	Protocol Amending The Agreement On Social Security Between India And Netherlands And Its Administrative Arrangement, Signed At New Delhi On 22 October 2009.	<b>Netherlands</b>	27-6-2017	04-12-2017		Ministry Of External Affairs



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160	Mou On Cooperation In The Field Of Water Management Between The Ministry Of Water Resources, River Development And Ganga Rejuvenation Of India And The Ministry Of Infrastructure & The Environment Of Netherlands.	<b>Netherlands</b>	27-6-2017		27-06-2017	Ministry Of Water Resources, River Development And Ganga Rejuvenation
161	Mou Between The Ministry Of Culture Of India And The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Of The Kingdom Of The Netherlands And The Ministry Of Education, Culture And Science Of The Netherlands On Cultural Cooperation.	<b>Netherlands</b>	27-6-2017		27-06-2017	Ministry Of Culture
162	Mou Between India And Netherlands On Cooperation In The Exploration And Uses Of Outer Space For Peaceful Purposes	<b>Netherlands</b>	22-05-17			Department Of Space
163	Third Protocol To The Convention Between India And New Zealand For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>New Zealand</b>	26-10-2016	20-12-2016	07-09-17	Ministry Of Finance
164	Memorandum Of Understanding Between India And Niue For Establishing India - Niue Centre Of Excellence In Information Technology	<b>Niue</b>	25-05-2017		25-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
165	Visa Free Agreement Between India And Italy For Holders Of Diplomatic Passport	<b>Palestine</b>	16-05-2017		03-07-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
166	Mou Between India And Palestine For Cooperation In The Field Of Youth And Sports	<b>Palestine</b>	16-05-2017		16-05-2017	Ministry Of Youth And Sports
167	Memorandum Of Understanding (Mou) Between Government Of India And Government Of Palestine For Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture And Allied Sectors.	<b>Palestine</b>	16-05-2017		16-05-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare

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168	Mou Between India And Palestine On Cooperation In The Field Of Health And Medicine	<b>Palestine</b>	16-05-2017		16-05-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
169	Mou Between The Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology Of India And The Ministry Of Telecom & Information Technology Of Palestine On Co-Operation In The Field Of Information Technology And Electronics	<b>Palestine</b>	16-05-2017		16-05-2017	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
170	Traditional Knowledge Digital Library ((Tkdl) Access Agreement Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research And The Peruvian National Institute For The Defense Of Competition And Protection Of Intellectual Property.	<b>Peru</b>	21-06-2017		21-06-2017	Ministry Of Science & Technology
171	Memorandum Of Understanding (Mou) Between Government Of India And Government Of Philippines On Cooperation In Agriculture And Related Fields.	<b>Philippines</b>	13-11-2017		13-11-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture
172	Mou Between Indian Council For Cultural Relations And University Of The Philippines	<b>Philippines</b>	13-11-2017		13-11-2017	Iccr
173	Mou Between The Indian Council Of World Affairs (Icwa), India And The Foreign Service Institute Of The Philippines (Fsi), Manila	<b>Philippines</b>	13-11-2017		13-11-2017	Icwa
174	Mou On Defence Industry And Logistics Cooperation Between The Ministry Of Defence India And The Department Of National Defense Of The Republic Of The Philippines	<b>Philippines</b>	13-11-2017		13-11-2017	Ministry Of Defence
175	Mou On Cooperation In The Field Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises Between National Small Industries Corporation, India And Bureau Of Small And Medium Enterprise Development, Philippines	<b>Philippines</b>	13-11-2017		13-11-2017	Ministry Of Micro Small Medium And Enterprises

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176	Agreement Between India And Poland On Cooperation In The Filed Of Agriculture	<b>Poland</b>	27-04-2017		27-04-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture
177	Protocol Signed During 5Th Session Of India-Poland Joint Commission On Economic Cooperation	<b>Poland</b>	27-11-2017		27-11- 2017	Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion
178	Mou Between The Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare India And Portuguese Republic For Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture And Allied Sectors	<b>Portugal</b>	06-01-2017		06-01-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
179	Protocol Amending The Convention Between India And Portugal For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Portugal</b>	24-06-2017	28-11-2017		Ministry Of Finance
180	Agreement Between India And Portugal On The Exemption Of Visas For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Portugal</b>	06-01-17	07-03-17	08-07-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
181	Mou Between India And Portugal On Cooperation In The Field Of Public Administration And Governance Reforms	<b>Portugal</b>	24-06-2017		24-06-2017	Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions
182	Mou Between India And Portugal On Cooperation In The Exploration And Uses Of Outer Space For Peaceful Purposes	<b>Portugal</b>	24-06-2017		24-06-2017	Department Of Space
183	Mou Between The Ministry Of Culture Of India And The Ministry Of Culture Of Portuguese Republic In The Field Of Culture	<b>Portugal</b>	24-06-2017		24-06-2017	Ministry Of Culture
184	Mou Between The Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of India And The Ministry Of Education Of The Portuguese Republic On Cooperation In The Field Of Youth And Sport	<b>Portugal</b>	24-06-2017		24-06-2017	Ministry Of Youth Affairs
185	Agreement Between India And Qatar On Exemption Of Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic, Special And Official Passports	<b>Qatar</b>	03-12-16	13-01-2017		Ministry Of External Affairs

## APPENDIX – II

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
186	Agreement Between The Government Of The Russian Federation And The Government Of The Republic Of India On Supply Of S-400 Triumph Air Defence Missile Systems To The Republic Of India	<b>Russia</b>	15-10-2016	13-04-2017		Ministry Of Defence
189	Agreement Between The Government Of The Russian Federation And The Government Of The Republic Of India For Construction Of Follow-On Ships Of Project 11356 In Russia And In India	<b>Russia</b>	15-10-2016	13-04-2017		Ministry Of Defence
190	Cultural Exchange Programme Between The Ministry Of Culture Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Culture Of The Russian Federation For The Years 2017-2019	<b>Russia</b>	01-06-2017		01-06-2017	Ministry Of Culture
191	Traditional Knowledge Digital Library ((Tkdl) Access Agreement Between Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research And Federal Service For Intellectual Property (Rospatent)	<b>Russia</b>	01-06-2017		01-06-2017	Ministry Of Science & Technology
192	Agreement For The Nagpur-Secunderabad Semi High Speed Execution Study In India	<b>Russia</b>	01-06-2017		01-06-2017	Ministry Of Railways
193	General Framework Agreement Between Nuclear Power Corporation Of India Limited , A Government Of India Enterprise Under Department Of Atomic Energy, India And Joint-Stock Company “ Atomstroyexport” Under The State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rostatom” The Russian Federation For The Implementation Of Units 5 And 6 Of “Kundankulam” Nuclear Power Plant 2017	<b>Russia</b>	01-06-2017		01-06-2017	Department Of Atomic Energy
194	Protocol Of The 17Th Meeting Of The India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission On Military-Technical Cooperation	<b>Russia</b>	23-06-2017		23-06-2017	Ministry Of Defence

## APPENDIX – II

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
195	Roadmap For The Development Of India- Russia Defence Cooperation	<b>Russia</b>	23-06-2017		23-06-2017	Ministry Of Defence
196	Agreement On Co-Operation Between The Ministry Of Home Affairs Of India And The Ministry Of Interior Of The Russian Federation	<b>Russia</b>	27-11-2017		27-11-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs
197	Protocol Between India And Russia On Introduction Of Amendments To The Agreement On Cooperation And Interaction Between Ministry Of Home Affairs Of India And The Ministry Of Security Of The Russian Federation Of 28 January, 1993	<b>Russia</b>	28-11-2017		28-11-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs
198	Joint Action Plan Between The Narcotics Control Bureau, India And Russia In The Sphere Of The Counteraction To The Drug Threat During The Period 2018-2020	<b>Russia</b>	27-11-2017		27-11-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs
199	Joint Implementation Plan Between The Ministry Of Home Affairs Of India And Russia For Civil Defense, Emergencies And Elimination Of Consequences Of Natural Disasters In Prevention And Elimination Of Emergencies For The Years 2018-2020	<b>Russia</b>	27-11-2017			Ministry Of Home Affairs
200	Protocol Of 5Th Session Of India-Russia Working Group On Priority Investment Projects	<b>Russia</b>	18-09-2017		18-09-2017	Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion
201	Protocol Of The 6Th Meeting Of The Working Group On Modernisation And Industrial Cooperation Under India-Russia Igc On Trade, Economic & Scientific, Technological And Cultural Cooperation	<b>Russia</b>	20-09- 2017		20-09- 2017	Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion
202	Protocol No. 2 To The Agreement Dated December 5, 2008 Between India And Russia On Cooperation In The Construction Of Additional Nuclear Power Plant Units At Kundalkulam Sit As Well As In The Construction Of Russia Designed Nuclear Power Plants At New Sites In India	<b>Russia</b>	01-06-2017		01-06-2017	Department Of Atomic Energy

**APPENDIX – II**

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
203	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Department Of Science And Technology (Dst), Govt Of India & The Foundation For Assistance To Small Innovative Enterprises, Russia (Fasie) For “Indo-Russia Unified Technology Assessment And Accelerated Commercialization Program”.	<b>Russia</b>	21-06-2017		21-06-2017	Ministry Of Science And Technology
204	Agreement Between India And Rwanda On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports	<b>Rwanda</b>	20-02-2017	15-03-2017		Ministry Of External Affairs
205	Mou Between India And Rwanda For Setting Up An Entrepreneurship Development Centre In Rwanda	<b>Rwanda</b>	20-02-2017		20-02-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
206	Air Services Agreement Between India And Rwanda	<b>Rwanda</b>	20-02-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Civil Aviation
207	Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of Republic Of India And The Government Of Independent State Of Samoa For Establishing India - Samoa Centre Of Excellence In Information Technology	<b>Samoa</b>	24-05-2017		24-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
208	Mou Between India And Serbia In The Area Of Archival Cooperation	<b>Serbia</b>	18-10-2017		18-10-2017	Ministry Of Culture
209	Third Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Singapore For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Singapore</b>	30-12-2016	24-01-2017		Ministry Of Finance
210	Agreement Between India And Somalia On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	<b>Somalia</b>	01-08-2017	01-09-2017		Ministry Of Home Affairs
211	Agreement Between India And Spain On Exemption Of Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017	20-06-2017		Ministry Of External Affairs
212	Agreement Between India And Spain On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017	03-07-2017		Ministry Of Home Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
213	Agreement Between India And Spain On Gainful Employment For Dependants Of Diplomatic, Consular Administrative And Technical Personnel Of Diplomatic And Consular Missions.	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of External Affairs
214	Memorandum Of Cooperation Between The Diplomatic School Of The Kingdom Of Spain And The Foreign Service Institute Of India	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017		30-05-2016	Ministry Of External Affairs
215	Mou In The Sphere Of Civil Aviation Between The Ministry Of Civil Aviation Of India And The Ministry Of Public Works And Transport Of The Spain	<b>Spain</b>	31-05-2017		31-05-2017	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
216	Mou In The Field Of Renewable Energy Between India And Spain	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017		30-05-2017	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
217	Mou Between The Directorate General Of Health Services, Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, India And The National Transplant Organisation, Spain On Cooperation In The Field Of Transplant Services	<b>Spain</b>	29-05-2017		29-05-2017	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
218	Mou On Cooperation In Cyber Security Between The India And Spain	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017		30-05-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs
219	Mou Between India And Sri Lanka For Cooperation In Economic Projects	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	26-04-2017		26-04-2017	Ministry Of Commerce & Industry
220	Agreement Between India And Suriname On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic, Official And Service Passports	<b>Suriname</b>	28-04-2017	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of External Affairs
221	Agreement To Extend The Mou Between The Bureau Of Indian Standards (Bis) And The Suriname Standards Bureau (Ssb)	<b>Suriname</b>	28-04-2017		28-04-2017	Ministry Of Consumer Affairs

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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
222	Works Plan Under Mou Between The Ministry Of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry And Fisheries India And Suriname For Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture And Allied Sectors For The Period Of 2017-2021	<b>Suriname</b>	28-04-17		28-04-17	Ministry Of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry And Fisheries
223	Agreement To Extend The Mou Between India And Suriname For Technical Cooperation	<b>Suriname</b>	28-04-2017		28-04-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
224	Protocol Signed During 18Th Session Of Indo-Swedish Joint Commission For Economic, Industrial And Scientific Cooperation	<b>Sweden</b>	17-05-2017		17-05-2017	Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion
225	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Tajikistan For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Tajikistan</b>	17-12-16	24-01-17		Ministry Of Finance
226	Agreement Minutes Of The 12Th Session Of India-Tunisia Joint Commission Meeting (New Delhi, October 30, 2017)	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
227	Roadmap For India-Tunisia Partnership	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-2017		30-10-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
228	Mou Between Ministry Of Justice Tunisia And Ministry Of Law And Justice Of India In The Field Of Judicial Cooperation	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-17		30-10-17	Ministry Of Law And Justice
229	Mou Between Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of Tunisia And The Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of India On Cooperation In Youth Matters	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-17		30-10-17	Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports
230	Mou Between India And Tunisia On The Establishment Of Soil, Water And Tissue Testing Laboratory (Swtl)	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-17		30-10-17	Ministry Of External Affairs



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Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
231	Mou Between The Federation Of Indian Export Organisation And Centre Of Promotion Of Exports (Cepex)	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-17		30-10-17	Ministry Of Commerce & Industry
232	Mou Between Software Technology Parks Of India And Elgazala Technopark-Tunisia On Cooperation In The Field Of Ict	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-17		30-10-17	Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology
233	Co-Operation Agreement Between The Tunisian Union For Industry Trade And Handicrafts (Utica) And Federation Of Indian Chambers Of Commerce And Industry (Ficci)	<b>Tunisia</b>	30-10-17		30-10-17	Ministry Of Commerce & Industry
234	Agreement Between India And Turkey On Gainful Occupation For Family Members Of The Members Of Diplomatic Mission Or Consular Post.	<b>Turkey</b>	01-05-2017		01-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
235	Mou Between Prasar Bharati, India And Emirates News Agency (Wam) United Arab Emirates For Cooperation In Programme Exchange, Etc.	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		25-01-17	Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
236	Mou Between The Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare In The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Climate Change & Environments In The United Arab Emirates In Agriculture And Allied Sectors	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		25-01-17	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
237	Mou Between The Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways Of India And The Federal Transport Authority- Land And Maritime Of United Arab Emirates On Bilateral Cooperation In The Road Transport And Highways Sector	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		25-01-17	Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways
238	Mou On Cooperation In The Field Of Small And Medium Enterprises (Smes) And Innovation Between The Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (Momsme), India And The Ministry Of Economy United Arab Emirates	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		25-01-17	Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises

## APPENDIX – II

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/ Agreement/Mou	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Date of Entry Into Force	Administrative Ministry
239	Mou Between India And United Arab Emirates On Trade Remedial Measures To Promote Cooperation In Areas Of Mutual Interest	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		25-01-17	Ministry Of Commerce & Industry
240	Mou Between India And United Arab Emirates On Cooperation In Preventing And Combating Of Human Trafficking	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		25-01-17	Ministry Of Home Affairs
241	Mou Between India And United Arab Emirates On Institutional Cooperation On Maritime Transport	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of Shipping
242	Mou Between The Directorate General Of Shipping India And The Federal Transport Authority-Land & Maritime In The United Arab Emirates	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		25-01-17	Ministry Of Shipping
243	Agreement On Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Between India And United Arab Emirates	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17	Not Ratified Yet		Ministry Of External Affairs
244	Mou Between India And United Arab Emirates On Mutual Exemption Of Entry Visa Requirements For Holders Of Diplomatic, Special And Official Passports	<b>UAE</b>	25-01-17		24-02-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
245	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The United States Of America Regarding Consular Privileges And Immunities	<b>USA</b>	19-01-17		19-01-17	Ministry Of External Affairs
246	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Socialist Republic Of Viet Nam For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Viet Nam</b>	03-09-16	08-02-2017		Ministry Of Finance
247	Agreement Between India And Vietnam On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Nuclear Energy	<b>Vietnam</b>	09-12-16	09-08-2017		Department Of Nuclear Energy

## APPENDIX – III

**List of Treaties/Agreements for which Instrument of Full Powers  
issued by India during 2017**

<b>Si. No.</b>	<b>Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU</b>	<b>Name of the Country</b>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry</b>
1	Second Amendments To The Asia – Pacific Trade Agreement.	<b>Apta</b>	12-01-2017	Ministry Of Commerce
2	Protocol Between India And Austria Amending The Convention For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income.	<b>Austria</b>	23-01-2017	Ministry Of Finance
3	Protocol Amending The Agreement And The Protocol Between India And And The Govt. Of The Kingdom Of Belgium For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income. Belgium	<b>Belgium</b>	02-01-2017	Ministry Of Finance
4	Memorandum Of Cooperation On Tax Matters Between The Brics Countries	<b>Brics</b>	22-07-2017	Ministry Of Finance
5	Agreement Between The Ministry Of Rural Development, India, Teh National Institute Of Rural Development And Panchayati Raj (Nird & Pr), India And The Centre On Integrated Rural Development For Asia And The Pacific (Cirdp) On The Establishment Of The Cirdp Cnetre In Nird & Pr (Ccn).	<b>Cirdap</b>	24-04-2017	Ministry Of Rural De- velopment
6	Agreement Between India, Brazil And South Africa On The Ibsa Fund For The Alleviation Of Poverty And Hunger	<b>Ibsa</b>	16-10-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
7	Multilateral Convention To Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures To Prevent Base Erosion And Profit Shifting.	<b>Implement Tax Treaty</b>	25-05-2017	Ministry Of Finance
8	Protocol Amending The Convention Between India And Kazakhstan For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income And On Capital.	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	06-01-2017	Ministry Of Finance
9	Agreement Between Korea And India Concerning Loans From The Economic Development Cooperation Fund.	<b>Korea</b>	09-06-2017	Ministry Of Finance

## APPENDIX – III

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU	Name of the Country	Date of Issue	Administrative Ministry
10	Undertaking Between India And Korea On Mutual Recognition Of Certificates Pursuant To Regulation I/10 Of International Convention On Standards Of Training, Certification And Watchkeeping, For Seafarers, 1978 As Amended.	<b>Korea</b>	22-12-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
11	Agreement Between India And Latvia On Exemption From Visa Requirements For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports.	<b>Latvia</b>	22-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
12	Agreement Between Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare Of India And The Ministry Of Agriculture And Rural Development Of Poland On Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture.	<b>Poland</b>	19-04-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
13	Cooperation Agreement The National Archives Of India And General Director Of State Archives Of Poland.	<b>Poland</b>	27-04-2017	National Archives Of India
14	Protocol Amending The Convention Between India And Portuguese For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income.	<b>Portuguese</b>	20-06-2017	Ministry Of Finance
15	Agreement Between India And Samoa For The Exchange Of Information With Respect To Taxes.	<b>Samoa</b>	16-05-2017	Ministry Of Finance
16	Mou Between The National Archives Of India And The Archives Of Yugoslavia – The Republic Of Serbia In The Area Of Archival Cooperation	<b>Serbia</b>	01-09-2017	Ministry Of Culture
17	Third Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Singapore For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income.	<b>Singapore</b>	23-01-2017	Ministry Of Finance
18	Mou Between The United Nations (Un) Entity Of Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women And The Ministry Of Panchayati Raj, India.	<b>Un Women</b>	11-04-2017	Ministry Of Panchayati Raj
19	Mou Between Ministry Of Rural Development, India And The Food And Agriculture Organization Of The United Nations (Fao) On Joint Technical And South – South Cooperation.	<b>United Nations</b>	10-03-2017	Ministry Of Rural Development

**APPENDIX – IV****List of Treaties/Agreements Ratified/Acceded by India during 2017****A: Multilateral**

<b>Si. No.</b>	<b>Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Date of Accession</b>	<b>Administrative Ministry</b>
1	Framework Agreement On The Establishment Of The International Solar Alliance (Isa).	<b>ISA</b>	28-06-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
2	Agreement On Cooperation And Interaction Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Sco) On Border Issues	<b>SCO</b>	04-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
3	Protocol On Interaction Of The Customs Services Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization In The Field Of Law Enforcement	<b>SCO</b>	04-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
4	Agreement Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization On Creating Favorable Conditions For International Road Transportation	<b>SCO</b>	04-05-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
5	Agreement On The Inter-Bank Cooperation (Association) In The Framework Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	<b>SCO</b>	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
6	Agreement On Disaster Relief Mutual Assistance Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	<b>SCO</b>	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
7	Protocol To The Agreement On Disaster Relief Mutual Assistance Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	<b>SCO</b>	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
8	Agreement On Cooperation In Education Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	<b>SCO</b>	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
10	Agreement On Cooperation In Culture Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	<b>SCO</b>	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
11	Treaty On Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship And Cooperation Between The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	<b>SCO</b>	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs

## APPENDIX – IV

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Accession	Administrative Ministry
12	Agreement On Cooperation In Combating Illicit Trafficking In Arms, Ammunition And Explosives Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
13	Protocol On Information Sharing In The Field Of Customs Control Over Transportation Of Energy Resources Between The Customs Services Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
14	Agreement On Cooperation In Combating Crime Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
15	Agreement On Cooperation In Agriculture Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
16	Agreement On Scientific And Technical Cooperation Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
17	Agreement On Cooperation Between The Ministries Of Justice Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
18	Agreement On Technical Protection Of Information In The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
19	Agreement On Cooperation And Mutual Assistance In Customs Affairs Between The Governments Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization	SCO	09-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
20	Convention On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	Council of Europe	08-11-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs
21	Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)	ILO	26-05-2017	Ministry Of Labour
22	Worst Form Of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)	ILO	26-05-2017	Ministry Of Labour
23	Customs Convention On The International Transport Of Goods Under Cover Of Tir Carnets (Tir Convention, 1975)	World Customs Organization	22-05-2017	Ministry Of Finance

## APPENDIX – IV

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Accession	Administrative Ministry
24	Doha Amendment To The Kyoto Protocol To The United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change	United Nations	13-07-2017	Ministry Of Environ-ment

## List B: Bilateral

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Administrative Ministry
1	Agreement Between India And Qatar On Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic, Special And Official Passport	Qatar	03-12-2016	13-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
2	Agreement Between India And Armenia On Co-Operation In The Field Of Agriculture	Armenia	19-02-2016	09-08-2017	Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare
3	Protocol Between India And Government Of The Republic Of Austria Amending The Convention For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income, Which Was Signed At Vienna On 8 November 1999	Austria	6-02-2017	01-03-2017	Ministry Of Finance
4	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Kingdom Of Bahrain On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	Bahrain	23-01-2016	10-03-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs
5	Protocol Amending The Agreement And The Protocol Between India And Government Of The Kingdom Of Belgium For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	Belgium	09-03-2017	11-04-2017	Ministry Of Finance
6	Agreement Between India And Belize On Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official/Service Passports	Belize	18-09-2017	29-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
7	Decision No. 1/2016 Of The Joint Administration Committee Set Up By The Preferential Trade Agreement Between The Republic Of Chile And The Republic Of India, Signed On March 8 2006 Concerning The Adoption Of Amendments To This Agreement	Chile	06-09-2016	03-02-2017	Ministry Of Commerce
8	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Croatia On Economic Cooperation	Croatia	14-02-2017	15-03-2017	Ministry Of Commerce & Industry

## APPENDIX – IV

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Administrative Ministry
9	Agreement Between India And Cyprus On Merchant Shipping	<b>Cyprus</b>	28-04-2017	29-09-2017	Ministry Of Shipping
10	Agreement Between India And Finland On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Finland</b>	06-11-2017	28-11-017	Ministry Of External Affairs
11	Agreement Between India And Georgia On Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official/Service Passports	<b>Georgia</b>	31-07-2017	01-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
12	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Italian Republic On The Exemption From Visas Requirement For The Short Stays For Diplomatic Passports	<b>Italy</b>	29-05-2017	20-06-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
13	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of Japan For Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Nuclear Energy	<b>Japan</b>	11-11-2016	14-06-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
14	Protocol Amending The Convention Between The Government Of India And Kazakhstan For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income And On Capital.	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	6-01-2017	24-01-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
15	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Kenya On Visa Exemption	<b>Kenya</b>	11-07-2016	03-02-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
16	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Government Of The State Of Kuwait For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Kuwait</b>	15-01-2017	28-02-2017	Ministry Of Finance
17	Agreement Between India And Latvia On Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Latvia</b>	23-05-2017	01-09-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
18	Protocol Amending The Agreement On Social Security Between India And Netherlands And Its Administrative Arrangement, Signed At New Delhi On 22 October 2009	<b>Netherlands</b>	27-06-2017	04-12-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs



## APPENDIX – IV

Si. No.	Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Administrative Ministry
19	Agreement Between India And Palestine On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports	<b>Palestine</b>	16-05-2017	03-07-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
20	Agreement Between India And Portuguese Republic On The Exemption Of Visas For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Portugal</b>	06-01-2017	07-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
21	Rotocol Amending The Convention Between India And Portugal For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Portugal</b>	24-06-2017	28-11-2017	Ministry Of Finance
22	Agreement Between The Government Of The Russian Federation And The Government Of The Republic Of India For Construction Of Follow-On Ships Of Project 11356 In Russia And In India	<b>Russia</b>	15-10-2016	13-04-2017	Ministry Of Defence
23	Agreement Between The Government Of The Russian Federation And The Government Of The Republic Of India On Supply Of S-400 Triumph Air Defence Missile Systems To The Republic Of India	<b>Russia</b>	15-10-2016	13-04-2017	Ministry Of Defence
24	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Rwanda On Exemption From Visa Requirement Fro Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports	<b>Rwanda</b>	20-02-2017	15-03-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
25	Third Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Singapore For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Singapore</b>	30-12-2016	24-01-2017	Ministry Of Finance
26	Agreement Between India And The Federal Republic Of Somalia On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	<b>Somalia</b>	01-08-2017	01-09-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs
27	Agreement Between The Republic Of India And The Kingdom Of Spain On Exemption Of Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017	20-06-2017	Minstry Of External Affairs
28	Agreement Between The Republic Of India And The Kingdom Of Spain On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons	<b>Spain</b>	30-05-2017	03-07-2017	Ministry Of Home Affairs

## APPENDIX – IV

Sl. No.	Name of The Treaty/Agreement/MOU	Organization	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Administrative Ministry
29	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Tajikistan For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Tajikistan</b>	17-12-2016	24-01-2017	Ministry Of Finance
30	Agreement On Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Between The Republic Of India And The United Arab Emirates	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	25-01-2017	14-12-2017	Ministry Of External Affairs
31	Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Government Of The Socialist Republic Of Vietnam For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income	<b>Vietnam</b>	03-09-2016	08-02-2017	Ministry Of Finance
32	Agreement Between India And Vietnam On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Atomic Energy	<b>Vietnam</b>	09-12-2016	09-08-2017	Department Of Nuclear Energy

## APPENDIX – V

## List of Partner Countries under the ITEC Programme

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	Botswana
21	Brazil
22	Brunei Darussalam
23	Bulgaria
24	Burkina Faso
25	Burundi
26	Cambodia
27	Cape Verde Island
28	Cameroon
29	Cayman Island
30	Central African Republic
31	Chad
32	Chile

S.No.	Country
33	Colombia
34	Commonwealth of Dominica
35	Comoros
36	Congo (Republic of)
37	Cook Islands
38	Costa Rica
39	Cote d' Ivoire
40	Croatia
41	Cuba
42	Czech Republic
43	Democratic Republic of Congo
44	Djibouti
45	Dominican Republic
46	Ecuador
47	Egypt
48	El-Salvador
49	Equatorial Guinea
50	Eritrea
51	Estonia
52	Ethiopia
53	Fiji
54	Gabon
55	Gambia
56	Georgia
57	Ghana
58	Grenada
59	Guatemala
60	Guinea
61	Guinea Bissau
62	Guyana
63	Haiti
64	Honduras

## APPENDIX – V

S.No.	Country
65	Hungary
66	Indonesia
67	Iran
68	Iraq
69	Jamaica
70	Jordan
71	Kazakhstan
72	Kenya
73	Kiribati
74	Korea(DPRK)
75	Kyrgyzstan
76	Laos
77	Latvia
78	Lebanon
79	Lesotho
80	Liberia
81	Libya
82	Lithuania
83	Macedonia
84	Madagascar
85	Malaysia
86	Malawi
87	Maldives
88	Mali
89	Marshall Islands
90	Mauritania
91	Mauritius
92	Mozambique
93	Myanmar
94	Mexico
95	Micronesia

S.No.	Country
96	Moldova
97	Mongolia
98	Montenegro
99	Montserrat
100	Morocco
101	Namibia
102	Nauru
103	Nepal
104	Nicaragua
105	Niger
106	Nigeria
107	Oman
108	Palau
109	Palestine
110	Panama
111	Papua New Guinea
112	Paraguay
113	Peru
114	Philippines
115	Poland
116	Qatar
117	Republic of Sao Tome
118	Romania
119	Russia
120	Rwanda
121	Samoa
122	Senegal
123	Serbia
124	Seychelles
125	Sierra Leone
126	Singapore

## APPENDIX – V

S.No.	Country
127	Slovak Republic
128	Solomon Island
129	Somalia
130	South Africa
131	Sri Lanka
132	St. Kitts & Nevis
133	St. Lucia
134	St. Vincent & Grenadines
135	Sudan
136	South Sudan
137	Suriname
138	Syria
139	Swaziland
140	Tajikistan
141	Tanzania
142	Thailand
143	Timor Leste

S.No.	Country
144	Togo
145	Tonga
146	Trinidad & Tobago
147	Tunisia
148	Turkey
149	Turkmenistan
150	Turks & Caicos Island
151	Tuvalu
152	Uganda
153	Ukraine
154	Uruguay
155	Uzbekistan
156	Vanuatu
157	Venezuela
158	Vietnam
159	Yemen
160	Zambia
161	Zimbabwe

## APPENDIX – VI

### Conferences/Seminars/Study projects organized/undertaken by Universities/ Institutions funded partially or wholly by Policy Planning and Research Division during 2017-18

S. No.	Event	Partner Institution
1	National Seminar on Act East Policy and Primary Goals of Economic Development, Democracy, and National Security 27-29 April 2017	Vidya Prasarak Mandal (VPM) Centre for International Studies, Mumbai
2	3rd Japan-India Track 1.5 Dialogue on Strategic and Security Issues in Tokyo 30 May 2017	Delhi Policy Group, New Delhi
3	Second India-China Think Tank Forum in Beijing 17-22 June 2017	Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), New Delhi
4	India-USA Forum 31 July – 1 August 2017	Ananta Aspen Centre, New Delhi
5	2nd Indian Ocean Conference 31 August – 1 September 2017	India Foundation, New Delhi
6	Trilateral Commission Asia Pacific Regional Meeting in Tokyo 24-26 November 2017 and Annual Plenary Meeting in Singapore 23-25 March 2018	Ananta Aspen Centre, New Delhi
7	16th India-South Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue 30 November – 1 December 2017	Ananta Aspen Centre, New Delhi
8	2nd Meeting of India-Russia Heads of Think-Tanks 4-5 December 2017	ICWA, New Delhi
9	Raisina Dialogue 16-18 January 2018	Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi
10	Gateway of India Geo-economic Dialogue 12-13 March 2018	Gateway House, Mumbai

## APPENDIX – VII

**Statement showing the number of Passport services rendered by Passport Offices, Headquarters, Indian Missions/Posts Abroad from January 01 to December 31, 2017**

RPO	Total Number of passport applications received Normal +Tatkal (A)	No. of Normal passports issued (B)	No. of Tatkal passports issued (C)	Total number of passports issued (B+C)	Misc applications received (PCC+LoC+ SC)	Misc applications issued (PC-C+LoC+SC)	Total No. passport and Misc. services rendered
Ahmedabad	624,218	616,875	3,066	619,941	23,595	23,491	643,432
Ahmedabad	624,218	616,875	3,066	619,941	23,595	23,491	643,432
Amritsar	201,438	186,947	3,989	190,936	8,381	7,903	198,839
Bareilly	129,734	123,258	1,222	124,480	7,312	7,214	131,694
Bengaluru	703,838	665,966	28,266	694,232	20,202	19,918	714,150
Bhopal	183,382	167,533	4,265	171,798	2,560	2,508	174,306
Bhubaneswar	122,266	119,334	1,457	120,791	6,791	6,764	127,555
Chandigarh	609,945	561,372	24,001	585,373	21,710	21,160	606,533
Chennai	482,186	464,373	10,622	474,995	19,307	18,790	493,785
Cochin	464,799	418,337	47,977	466,314	30,732	30,731	497,045
Coimbatore	178,921	172,602	1,019	173,621	3,552	3,409	177,030
Dehradun	84,861	84,573	1,955	86,528	3,935	3,882	90,410
Delhi	634,138	562,542	62,315	624,857	14,460	13,999	638,856
Ghaziabad	243,056	221,320	9,732	231,052	6,270	5,998	237,050
Goa	51,557	51,929	99	52,028	5,738	5,741	57,769
Guwahati	115,035	103,277	6,536	109,813	2,332	2,346	112,159
Hyderabad	568,309	576,076	13,038	589,114	20,224	21,087	610,201
Jaipur	375,793	351,748	7,042	358,790	16,324	16,138	374,928
Jalandhar	436,547	430,446	1,998	432,444	27,690	27,432	459,876
Jammu	48,222	46,707	15	46,722	2,959	3,027	49,749
Kolkata	589,252	560,339	15,950	576,289	22,922	22,295	598,584
Kozhikode	363,634	327,899	32,034	359,933	9,793	9,686	369,619
Lucknow	607,175	594,222	4,473	598,695	45,891	45,086	643,781

## APPENDIX – VII

RPO	Total Number of passport applications received Normal + Tatkal (A)	No. of Normal passports issued (B)	No. of Tatkal passports issued (C)	Total number of passports issued (B+C)	Misc applications received (PCC+LoC+SC)	Misc applications issued (PCC+LoC+SC)	Total No. passport and Misc. services rendered
Madurai	284,062	284,536	160	284,696	15,094	14,969	299,665
Malappuram	210,581	207,156	12,147	219,303	2,883	2,888	222,191
Mumbai	634,884	570,566	22,175	592,741	17,469	16,955	609,696
Nagpur	118,626	121,178	1,733	122,911	2,189	2,153	125,064
Patna	285,169	292,696	3,557	296,253	29,811	29,943	326,196
Pune	348,848	328,611	16,020	344,631	9,153	8,877	353,508
Raipur	49,318	47,047	606	47,653	575	572	48,225
Ranchi	93,213	94,086	826	94,912	4,739	4,757	99,669
Shimla	54,345	53,456	367	53,823	2,650	2,658	56,481
Srinagar	92,013	86,065	155	86,220	2,265	2,010	88,230
Surat	184,967	183,539	1,308	184,847	8,621	8,582	193,429
Thane	238,897	248,833	7,189	256,022	5,856	6,026	262,048
Tiruchirappalli	227,450	226,519	313	226,832	11,966	11,999	238,831
Trivandrum	226,549	217,821	11,798	229,619	14,081	13,954	243,573
Vijayawada	147,917	134,058	1,673	135,731	10,303	9,913	145,644
Visakhapatnam	217,933	219,579	1,977	221,556	9,763	9,682	231,238
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3,381			3,381			3,381
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,12,36,459</b>	<b>1,07,23,421</b>	<b>3,63,075</b>	<b>1,10,89,877</b>	<b>4,70,098</b>	<b>4,64,543</b>	<b>1,15,54,420</b>
<b>(i)</b>	<b>39 RPO's (Passports and PCC+LoC+SC Services) = (1,10,89,877+4,64,543)</b>					<b>1,15,54,420</b>	
	<b>PV-II, Indian Missions &amp; Posts Aboard, and Passport Offices in India for (Official &amp; Diplomatic Passports)=</b>					<b>29022+2655=31687</b>	
	<b>(IC) issued by RPO, Delhi</b>					<b>2078</b>	
	<b>GEP applications processed in India</b>					<b>136</b>	
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>PPt+ECs+Misc. services by Indian Mission/Posts</b>					<b>15,13,846</b>	
	<b>Grand Total (i+ii)</b>					<b>1,31,02,167</b>	



**APPENDIX – VIII****List of POPSK inaugurated till date (Phase-I)**

S. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office	Inaugurated on	Inaugurated by
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	09.07.2017	Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Dy. CM. (In the gracious presence of) Shri Virendra Singh, MP and Shri Shyama Charan Gupt, MP
2	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata	28.02.2017	Shri Babul Supriyo, MoS HI & PE
3	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai	28.03.2017	Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, MP and others
4	Ayodhya/ Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	31.05.2017	Shri Yogi Adityanath, CM. (In the gracious presence of) Also written to Shri Vinay Katiyar, MP and Shri Lallu Singh, MP
5	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh	13.08.2017	Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries
6	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna	13.05.2017	Shri Manoj Sinha, MOS(I/C) Communications & MOS Railways
7	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna	25.03.2017	Shri Shailesh Kumar, MP*
8	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	31.03.2017	Shri Vinod L. Chavda, MP
9	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur	19.03.2017	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, MOS Finance & CA
10	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	25.01.2017	Gen.(Retd) Dr. V.K. Singh, MOS for External Affairs (In the gracious presence of) Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai, MOS Tribal Affairs
11	Daman	Daman	Mumbai	26.03.2017	Shri Lalubhai Babubhai Patel, MP
12	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi	25.03.2017	Shri Nishikant Dubey, MP
13	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	29.08.2017	Shri Kalraj Mishra, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
14	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi	26.04.2017	Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, MP
15	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	10.05.2017	Shri Manoj Sinha, MOS(I/C) Communications & MOS Railways
16	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	02.04.2017	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, MP
17	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	25.04.2017	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, MP
18	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh	02.04.2017	Shri Dushyant Chautala, MP

## APPENDIX – VIII

S. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office	Inaugurated on	Inaugurated by
19	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	01.04.2017	Gen.(Retd) Dr. V.K. Singh, MOS for External Affairs (In the gracious presence of) Shri Rakesh Singh, MP.
20	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur	04.04.2017	Shri Sonaram Chaudhry, MP (In the gracious presence of) Shri Sonaram Chaudhry, MP
21	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi	19.03.2017	Shri Bidyut Varan Mahto, MP (In the gracious presence of) Shri Saryu Rai, Minister, Parl. Affairs, Govt. of Jharkhand
22	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur	12.04.2017	Shri Dushyant Singh, MP
23	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	29.04.2017	Kum. Uma Bharti, Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
24	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur	02.04.2017	Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, MP
25	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	03.04.2017	Shri YS Avinash Reddy, MP
26	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh	25.03.2017	Shri M.L. Khattar, CM & Shri Ashwini Kumar, MP
27	Kasargod	Kerala	Kozhikode	01.04.2017	Shri P. Karunakaran, MP
28	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin	03.03.2017	Shri Md. Faizal PP, MP
29	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune	25.03.2017	Shri Dhananjay Bheemrao Mahadik, MP
30	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	01.06.2017	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, MoS(I/C) for Petroleum & NG alongwith Shri Jhina Hikaka, MP alongwith
31	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur	05.03.2017	Shri Om Birla, MP (In the gracious presence of) Shri Bhawani Singh Rajawat, MLA + 3 more MLAs
32	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	05.04.2017	Ms. Renuka Butta, MP
33	Leh	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	30.07.2017	Shri Thupstan Chhewang, MP
34	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad	28.03.2017	Shr A.P. Jitender Reddy, M.P.
35	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna	08.03.2017	Shri Ajay Nishad, MP
36	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bangalore	25.01.2017	Shri Anantha Kumar, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilisers

## APPENDIX – VIII

S. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office	Inauguration	Inaugurated by
37	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata	15.07.2017	Shri M.J.Akbar, MOS (EA) via video conferencing from Kolkata
38	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	02.06.2017	Shri Venkaiya Naidu, Minister for Parl. Affairs.
39	North Kolkata (Beacon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata	15.07.2017	Shri M.J.Akbar, MOS (EA)
40	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	21.03.2017	Shri Shanta Kumar, MP
41	Palampur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	28.03.2017	Shri Haribhai Choudhry, MP
42	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivandrum	01.03.2017	Shri P J Kurien, Dy. Chairman RS (In the gracious presence of) Shri Anto Antony, MP
43	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh	03.11.2017	Capt. Amarinder Singh, CM. Also written to Shri Shri Vijay Sampla, State President, BJP Punjab/MOS for Social Justice & Empowerment.
44	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly	30.04.2017	Smt. Menaka Gandhi, Minister for Women & Child Development.
45	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune	02.04.2017	Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, MP
46	Purnea	Bihar	Patna	18.03.2017	Shri Santosh Kumar, MP
47	Raiganj (North Dinajpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata	06.03.2017	Shri Mohammad Salim, MP
48	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	25.02.2017	Shri Jual Oram, Minister of Tribal Affairs
49	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	07.03.2017	Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
50	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	19.03.2017	Shri Naveen Patnaik, CM (In the gracious presence of) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, MOS Petroleum & NG, Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan, MP
51	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	27.03.2017	Shri Ganesh Singh, MP
52	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati	25.03.2017	Shri Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister of PWD, Govt. of Assam (In the gracious presence of) Ms. Sushmita . Dev, MP, Shri Dilip Kr. Paul, Deputy Speaker, Govt. of Assam

**APPENDIX – VIII**

S. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office	Inaugurated on	Inaugurated by
53	Silvasa	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Mumbai	17.04.2017	Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India (In the gracious presence of) Shri Nattubhai Gomanbhai Patel, MP
54	Siwan	Bihar	Patna	01.04.2017	Shri Om Prakash Yadav, MP
55	Surguja	Chattisgarh	Raipur	09.05.2017	Shri Kamal Bhan Singh Marabi, MP
56	Udhampur	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	05.03.2017	Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS(I/C) NED & PMO
57	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	25.03.2017	Shri B. Senguttuvan, MP
58	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	27.02.2017	Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, CM
59	Warangal (Hanamkonda)	Telangana	Hyderabad	29.03.2017	Shri Kadiyam Srihar, Deputy Chief Minister (In the gracious presence of) Shri Dayakar Pasunoori, MP
60	Karaikal	Puducherry	Chennai	19.01.2018	Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister in gracious presence of Shri V. Narayanasamy, Chief Minister of Puducherry

## APPENDIX – IX

**Cadre Strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad as on 19 November 2017  
( including posts budgeted by M/s Commerce, ex-cadre posts and posts  
encadred from MOIA & POE)**

S. No.	Cadre/Post	Posts at Hqrs	Posts at Mission	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46
3	Grade III	38	126	164
4	Grade IV	58	151	209
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	117	234	351
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
	<b>Sub Total I</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>941</b>
7	(i) Grade I	118	125	243
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades I & II	359	229	588
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	214	533	747
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	55		55
10	(i) Grade V/VI	202	89	291
	(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) Stenographers's Cadre	396	512	908
	(ii) Leave Reserve	5		5
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10		10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12		12
13	Interpreter's Cadre	7	26	33
14	L & T Cadre	20	3	23
	<b>Sub Total II</b>	<b>1703</b>	<b>1564</b>	<b>3267</b>
	<b>Grand Total (Sub Total I + II)</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2168</b>	<b>4208</b>

**APPENDIX – X**

**Data on recruitment/vacancies through DR, DP and LDE Modes made in the Ministry along with reserved vacancies for the period 01 April 2017 to 31 November 2017.**

S. No.	Groups	Total No. of Vacancies	SC	ST	OBC
1	Group 'A'	205	34	23	11
2	Group 'B'	433	53	52	20
3	Group 'C'	132	11	12	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>35</b>

## APPENDIX – XI

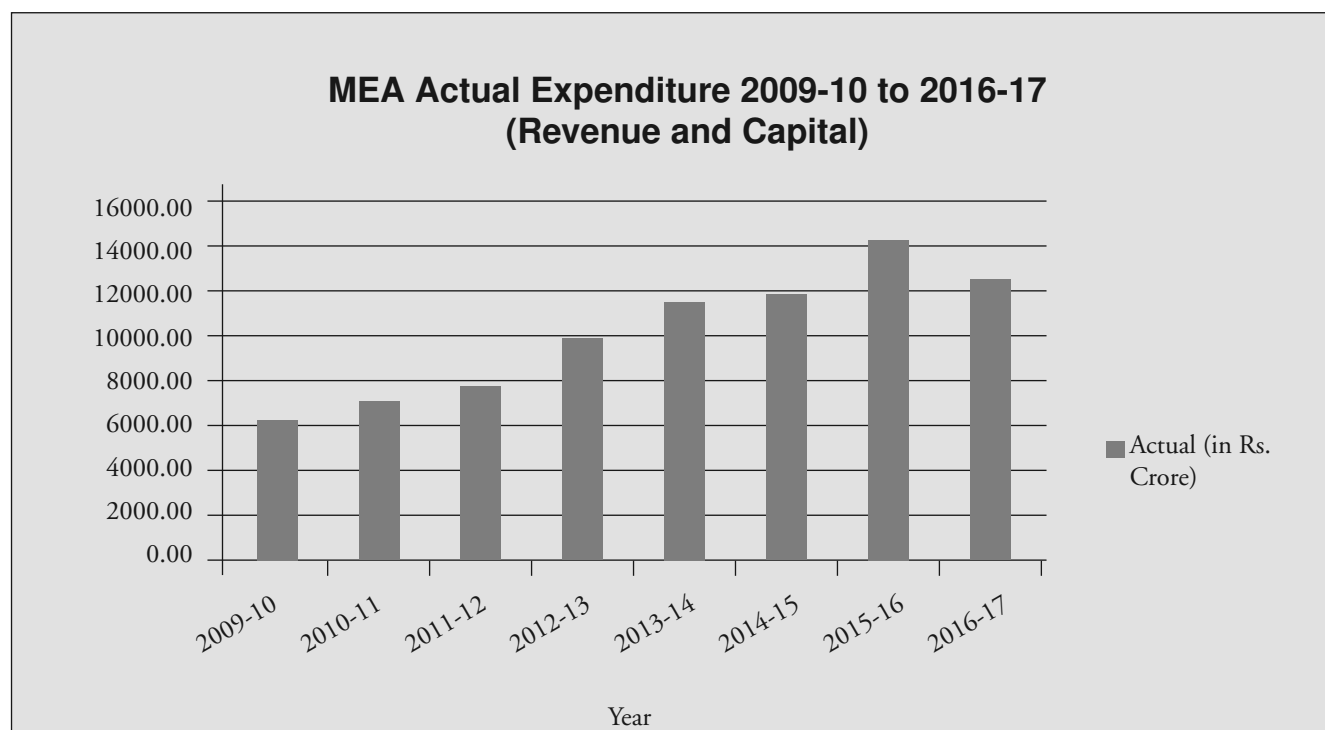
## Number of IFS officers with proficiency in various languages

S. No.	Language	Number of Officers
1	Arabic	106
2	Bhasa Indonesia	09
3	Bhasa Malay	01
4	Burmese	05
5	Chinese	85
6	Czech	2
7	French	94
8	German	33
9	Hebrew	07
10	Japanese	27
11	Kazakh	01
12	Kiswahili	02
13	Korean	07
14	Nepalise	1
15	Pashto	02
16	Persian	20
17	Polish	1
18	Portuguese	24
19	Russian	99
20	Sinhalese	04
21	Spanish	86
22	Turkish	06
23	Ukranian	01
24	Vietnamese	01
	<b>Total</b>	<b>624</b>

## APPENDIX – XII

### MEA Actual Expenditure: Financial Year (FY) 2009-10 to FY 2016-17

Years	Actual (in crore)	Variation from Previous Year
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	2.89 %
2015-16	14472.95	19.13 %
2016-17	12772.62	- 11.75 %

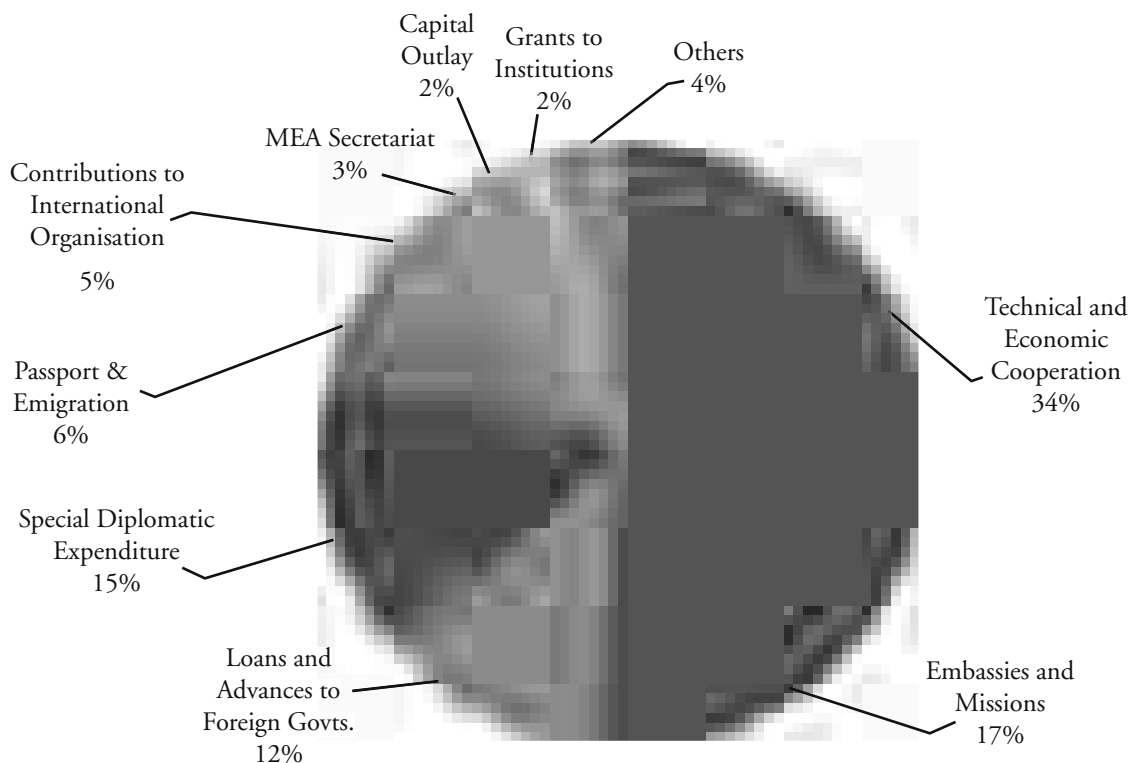




## Major Sectoral Allocations in Financial Year (FY) 2017-18

Sectors	Allocation (in crore)
Technical and Economic Cooperation	5093.77
Embassies and Missions	2528.56
Loans and Advances to Foreign Governments	1800.26
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	2200.01
Passport and Emigration	823.59
Contributions to International Organizations	717.93
MEA Secretariat	423.59
swCapital Outlay	350.00
Grants to Institutions	260.52
Others	600.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>14798.55</b>

## Major Sectoral allocations (2017-18)



## APPENDIX – XIV

### Principal Destinations of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes

Technical and Economic Cooperation Budget Head	Allocation (In Crore)	% of Total Aid Budget
Bhutan	3,714.13	53.87
Bangladesh	125.00	1.81
Afghanistan	350.00	5.08
Sri Lanka	125.00	1.81
Nepal	375.00	5.44
Myanmar	225.00	3.26
African Countries	330.00	4.79
Eurasian Countries	25.00	0.36
Maldives	245.00	3.55
Latin American Countries	20.00	0.29
Mongolia	5.00	0.07
Mauritius	350.00	5.08
Seychelles	300.00	4.35
Chahbahar Port, Iran	150.00	2.18
Others	554.90	8.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>6894.03</b>	

**APPENDIX – XV****Status of Pending C & AG Audit Paragraphs**

S.No	Year	Report	Total No. of Paras	ATN Submitted	ATN under process
1	2017	No. 12 (laid in Parliament on 21 July 2017)	4	3	1

**Report No. 12 of 2017 - Union Government (Civil) Compliance Audit Observations Laid in Parliament on 21 July 2017**

Three instances of fraud were detected in Consulate General of India, San Francisco that arose due to absence of internal controls. These relate to fraudulent claim against servicing of the official staff car ( ₹ 3.37 lakh), widespread and recurring reimbursement of fictitious conveyance charges ( ₹ 55.21 lakh) to employees, and presumptive fraud on payment to local repair firm.

(Paragraph No. 9.2) ATN Submitted

Embassy of India, Tokyo violated the General Financial Rules and the Receipt and Payments Rules by keeping receipt and expenditure out of embassy account during the conduct of the Sakura festival 2015.

(Paragraph No. 9.3) ATN under process

## Abbreviations

<b>AALCO</b>	Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation	<b>FIDC</b>	Forum for Indian Development Cooperation
<b>ARF</b>	ASEAN Regional Forum	<b>FMCT</b>	Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of South East Asian Nations	<b>FTA</b>	Free Trade Agreement
<b>ASEM</b>	Asia Europe Meeting	<b>G-20</b>	Group of Twenty
<b>ASSOCHAM</b>	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry	<b>GCTF</b>	Global Counter Terrorism Forum
<b>AU</b>	African Union	<b>GFMD</b>	Global Forum for Migration and Development
<b>AWG-LC</b>	Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action	<b>GOI</b>	Government of India
<b>AYUSH</b>	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy	<b>HEP</b>	Hydro-Electric Project
<b>BARC</b>	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>BIMSTEC</b>	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation	<b>IAFS</b>	India-Africa Forum Summit
<b>BIPPA</b>	Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement	<b>IANS</b>	Indo-Asian News Service
<b>BRIC</b>	Brazil, Russia, India and China	<b>IBSA</b>	India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum
<b>CBM</b>	Confidence Building Measure	<b>I/C</b>	Independent Charge
<b>CBRN</b>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear	<b>ICAO</b>	International Civil Aviation Organisation
<b>CECA</b>	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	<b>ICCR</b>	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
<b>CELAC</b>	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States	<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>CEPA</b>	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	<b>ICWA</b>	Indian Council of World Affairs
<b>CHOGM</b>	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet	<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>CII</b>	Confederation of Indian Industry	<b>IDFR</b>	Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations
<b>CLMV</b>	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Burma, and Vietnam	<b>IDS</b>	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
<b>CPIO</b>	Central Public Information Officer	<b>IEA</b>	International Energy Agency
<b>CPV</b>	Consular Passport and Visa	<b>IFS</b>	Indian Foreign Service
<b>DTAA</b>	Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement	<b>IGNOU</b>	Indira Gandhi National Open University
<b>EAM</b>	External Affairs Minister	<b>IIFT</b>	Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
<b>EASA</b>	External Affairs Spouses' Association	<b>IIMC</b>	Indian Institute of Mass Communication
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>EEPC</b>	Engineering Exports Promotion Council	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization on Migration
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>IONS</b>	Institute of Noetic Sciences
<b>EXIM</b>	Export Import Bank of India	<b>IOR-ARC</b>	Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment	<b>IPR</b>	Intellectual Property Rights
<b>FICCI</b>	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry	<b>IPU</b>	Inter-Parliamentary Union
		<b>IRENA</b>	International Renewable Energy Agency
		<b>ISRO</b>	Indian Space Research Organization
		<b>ITEC</b>	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation
		<b>ITMA</b>	International Textile Manufacturers Association

## Abbreviations

<b>IVFRT</b>	Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking	<b>SAFTA</b>	South Asian Free Trade Area
<b>JCBC</b>	Joint Commission on Business Cooperation	<b>SAU</b>	South Asian University
<b>JWG</b>	Joint Working Group	<b>SBI</b>	State Bank of India
<b>LCS</b>	Land Customs Stations	<b>SCAAP</b>	Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Country	<b>SCO</b>	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
<b>LoC</b>	Line of Credit	<b>SDP</b>	Small Development Projects
<b>MEP</b>	Member of the European Parliament	<b>SEBI</b>	Securities and Exchange Board of India
<b>MERCOSUR</b>	Market of Southern Cone Countries	<b>SED</b>	Strategic Economic Dialogue
<b>MGC</b>	Mekong-Ganga Cooperation	<b>SICA</b>	Central American Integration System
<b>MoEF</b>	Ministry of Environment & Forests	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding	<b>SR</b>	Special Representative
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament	<b>TERI</b>	Tata Energy and Research Institute
<b>MTCR</b>	Missile Technology Control Regime	<b>UNASUR</b>	Union of South American Nations
<b>NAM</b>	Non-Aligned Movement	<b>UNCITRAL</b>	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
<b>NASA</b>	National Aeronautical and Space Administration	<b>UNCOPUOS</b>	United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
<b>NDC</b>	National Defence College	<b>UNCSTD</b>	United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organisation	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development
<b>NIFT</b>	National Institute of Fashion Technology	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>NPT</b>	Non-Proliferation Treaty	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>NSCS</b>	National Security Council Secretariat	<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>OCI</b>	Overseas Citizenship of India	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>OPCW</b>	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>OTs</b>	Officer Trainees	<b>UNIFIL</b>	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
<b>PHARMEXCIL</b>	Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India	<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>PIO</b>	Persons of Indian Origin	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>PM</b>	Prime Minister	<b>UPA</b>	United Progressive Alliance
<b>PTA</b>	Preferential Trade Agreement	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>PTI</b>	Press Trust of India	<b>WIPO</b>	World Intellectual Rights Organisation
<b>PSP</b>	Passport Sewa Project	<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation
<b>PSU</b>	Public Sector Undertaking	<b>XPD</b>	External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division
<b>RBI</b>	Reserve of Bank of India		
<b>RGoB</b>	Royal Government of Bhutan		
<b>RTI</b>	Right to Information		
<b>SAARC</b>	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation		



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